

Eufaula City (133) Public District - FY 2024 - Consolidated - Rev 0 - Improvement Planning

Alabama Education Stability for Foster Students

LEA Student in Foster Care Overview

5 Number of Students in Foster Care (Enrolled for Previous School Year)

11 Number of Students in Foster Care (Currently Enrolled)

List Agencies in Collaboration:

Eufaula City Schools (Dr. Alicia Lyles)

Barbour County Schools (Dr. Stacy Carter)

Barbour County DHR (Leslie Adams)

Policy Review and Revision (Describe how each agency in collaboration reviewed policies and the revisions made to policies as a result of reviews.)

Each year the Federal Programs Director from Barbour County and the Federal Programs Coordinator from Eufaula City will meet with the DHR contact person to review the Foster Care Plan in place. We will review the previous year's outcome with foster care students in general. We will also review specific cases where foster care students moved but stayed at their schools of origin, to determine if procedures need to be adjusted for the betterment of the foster care students. Input will be sought from both parties to improve DHR services to foster care children and to improve school withdrawal and enrollment procedures for such students. Policies concerning schools of origin, transportation, and incurred costs will be discussed.

Describe Collaboration and Coordination with Agencies (Include a list of team members, positions, signatures, and agencies.):

Dr. Alicia Lyles (Eufaula City Schools) Coordinator of Federal Programs

Leslie Adams (Barbour DHR Contact Person) DHR

Dr. Stacy Carter (Barbour County Schools) Director of Federal Programs

LEA(s) Point(s) of Contact:

Dr. Alicia Lyles

DHR(s) Point(s) of Contact:

Leslie Adams

LEA Student in Foster Care Responses

2 C. F. R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. §76.770; ESSA SECTION 1111(1)(e) - LEAs must implement the Title I educational stability requirements of children in foster care, including ensuring that:

- A child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in that child's best interest;
- If it is not in the child's best interest to stay in his or her school of origin the child is immediately enrolled in the new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment; and
- That the new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin, to obtain relevant academic and other records.

Describe procedures for implementing the above provisions.

The school district will conduct training sessions with the appropriate school personnel to inform them of methods of identifying foster care children without stigmatizing students or families. The school will maintain the form in the student's permanent records. This file should be housed in the school counselor's office, in close proximity, or in secured locations. The school's counselor/ registrar will contact Barbour County's and Eufaula City's foster care liaison if a student is suspected of being in foster care.

The school shall enroll a foster care child even if the child is unable to produce proof of residency, birth certificate, social security number, immunization record, or school records. The school shall immediately contact the last school attended to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the child needs to obtain immunization or medical records, the enrolling school or principal's designee will provide the parent, guardian and, or unaccompanied youth appropriate assistance in obtaining the necessary records and documentation for enrollment. The existing methods of assigning a student number will be employed when a student enrolls without a social security number.

ESSA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) - A description of how the LEA in collaboration with the local child welfare agency will ensure that in determining whether it is in the child's best interest to remain in his or her school of origin, and LEA takes into consideration all factors relating to a child's best interest. Description of how the LEA will work with child welfare agencies to develop a clear policy or protocol on how to make best interest determinations including making every effort to gather meaningful input from relevant parties, in addition to required child welfare and school representatives, in deciding what school placement is in a child's best interest. Include a description of protocols in this description.

ESSA states that children are entitled to school stability and prompt school enrollment protections, with requirements as follows:

- A child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in that child's best interest;
- If it is not in the child's best interest to stay in his or her school of origin, the child is immediately enrolled in the new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment; and

That the new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin to obtain relevant academic and other records.

Barbour County School District and Eufaula City Schools will, to the extent practicable, coordinate the provision of services to foster care children with the Department of Human Resources.

The educational stability plan must be documented in the ISP no later than 60 days after the child's removal from the home and every six months thereafter, or whenever any subsequent placement moves require a change in school placement, as determined by the ISP team.

Factors to be considered when making an ISP team decision regarding school placement moves are as follows:

- Preferences of the child in accordance with the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards;
- Preferences of the child's parent(s) or education decision maker(s)
- Placement of the child's sibling(s);
- Influence of the school climate on the child, including safety;
- The availability and quality of the services in the school to meet the child's educational and socioemotional needs;
- History of school transfers and how they have impacted the children;
- How the length of the commute would impact the child, based on the child's developmental stage;
- Whether the child is a student with a disability under IDEA who is receiving special education and related services, or a student with a disability under Section 504 who is receiving special education or related aids and services, and if so, the availability of those required services in a school other than the school origin;
- Whether the child is an EL and is receiving language services, and, if so, the availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin.

Best Interest Determination

A representative from the school of origin (POC or designee) should be knowledgeable about the child and able to provide feedback and significant relationships that the child may have formed with staff and peers and how changing schools would impact his or her academic, social, and emotional well-being. Based on the individual situation, this person could be a teacher, a counselor, coach, or other meaningful person in the child's life.

Within 10 days of notification of the child in foster care, the LEA and county child welfare designee should consult other relevant parties, such as the child, depending on age, foster parents, biological parents, when appropriate, education decision maker(s), and other relatives for their perspectives on which school the child should attend during his or her time in foster care, consistent with the child's case plan. If a child has an IEP or a Section 504 plan, then relevant school staff members would also need to participate in the best interest decision process. If the child is EL, this may also affect the relevant school staff members who would need to participate in the best interest decision process.

ESSA Section 1112(c)(5)(B) Description of transportation protocols and procedures to include how additional costs for transportation will be calculated and funded as well as a policy for LEAs to resolve best interest disputes and interagency disputes related to transportation costs. Description must include how

transportation and transportation costs will be monitored. (Include LEA and welfare responsibilities for providing transportation.)

Description of Dispute Resolution Policy

Barbour County School District and Eufaula City Schools, and the Barbour County DHR offices should collaborate to determine how additional costs for transportation will be calculated and funded. Additional costs are the difference between Barbour County School District and Eufaula City Schools otherwise would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school and the cost of transportation for a child in foster care to his or her school of origin. Barbour County School District and Eufaula City Schools have three options for funding additional transportation costs.

1. DHR will incur all transportation cost. By providing the transportation or paying for the foster parent to transport the student (at the current State mileage rate).
2. The Barbour County School District and the Eufaula City Schools are reimbursed by DHR (The cost must be the difference in a normal daily cost of transporting a student.)
3. The Barbour County School District and Eufaula City Schools agree to share the transportation services, if it can be done using overlapping of bus stops when applicable.
4. Barbour County School District, Eufaula City Schools, and local DHR offices should collaborate to write written policies and procedures.

The Barbour County School District, the Eufaula City Schools and the Department of Human Resources should make *every* effort to reach agreement regarding transportation costs for a child in foster care.

In the event a dispute cannot be resolved at the local level, the State Superintendent of Education, or his/her designee, and the Director of Department of Human Resources Family Services or his/her designee must address the issues within (10) days of receipt of the written request. One additional SEA staff member will help settle disputes at the state level. The student should be enrolled and transported to the school determined by the child welfare agency while the dispute is being resolved. If the dispute remains unresolved after the ALSDE response to the written request, then both agencies, ALSDE and AL DHR may assign staff to make an on-site visit to gather or clarify information. A follow-up response or determination must be made within thirty (30) days. This collaborative determination will be final.

ESSA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)(ii)-(iii) Describe protocol for a child in foster care to be immediately enrolled in a new school.

The school shall immediately enroll a foster care child even if the child is unable to produce proof of residency, birth certificate, social security number, immunization record, or school records.