



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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**TO** Title I Directors

**FROM** Donna R. Brown, Director *DRB*

**DATE** October 13, 2016

## **EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT: PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE**

This is written to provide you with additional information on the provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that establishes new protections for children in foster care under Title I, Part A (Title I). These provisions complement the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act) and further promote the purpose of Title I – to ensure that all children receive a high-quality education and to close achievement gaps between student groups. Together these laws strengthen opportunities for educational agencies and child welfare agencies to jointly determine the most effective practices to remove enrollment barriers and promote school stability and success for students.

Effective December 10, 2016, the foster care provisions of Title I under ESSA require state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) to work with child welfare agencies to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care. In its state plan for ESSA, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) will include a description of collaboration efforts with the Division of Social Services (DSS) at the North Carolina Department of Human and Health Services (DHHS). Jointly, the NCDPI and the DSS will identify a state-level point of contact (POC) for each agency and will develop guidance for LEAs on the development and implementation of clear written procedures to address protections for foster children such as meeting transportation needs and making best interest determinations regarding school selection. The DSS memo previously provided to local child welfare agencies on the ESSA foster care provisions may be viewed [HERE](#).

As outlined in the DSS memo, LEAs must designate a POC for the corresponding child welfare agency, if the child welfare agency notifies the LEA, in writing, that it has designated a POC. In addition, DSS informed all local child welfare agencies to designate a POC and to provide that POC information to the appropriate LEA in writing. In an effort to maintain continuous coordination with our partners at DSS, we are requesting that each LEA designate the individual that will serve as the LEA point of contact and submit the information by completing the form at [https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0dFGfvBnPi0Ey0J](https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0dFGfvBnPi0Ey0J).

In the coming weeks, the NCDPI and the DSS will provide additional information and resources to support local plans to address the needs of students in foster care. The state-maintained directory will help to ensure that we are providing this information to appropriate local staff as quickly as possible. In addition, we will continue to provide this information to Title I Directors through the already established listserv.

DRB:pl

### **FEDERAL PROGRAM MONITORING AND SUPPORT DIVISION**

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