

Information on Educational Rights for Children in Foster Care



Foster care means:

24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility.

Children in Foster care are eligible to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education.
- Remain in their school of origin.
- Enroll immediately in a local attendance area school even if lacking normally required enrollment documents and school records. This includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities.
- Receive transportation to and from their school of origin when necessary.
- Receive free meals without completing an application.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the foster care child's needs.

School of origin is the school of origin is the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. An SEA and its LEAs must ensure that a child in foster care enrolls or remains in his or her school of origin unless a determination is made that it is not in the child's best interest. (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)). If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change.

If you have questions regarding foster care contact your school district point of contact.



LEA Foster care Point of Contact	Local DSS Point of Contact	SEA Foster care Point of Contact Sara Bigley State Program Coordinator Federal Program Monitoring and Support Services Division with NCDPI The SERVE Center at UNCG sbigley@serve.org 336.334.4638
----------------------------------	----------------------------	---

