











NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The Funding

November 5, 2020









Welcome

Agenda



NC DHHS DSS Foster Care Manager



Sara Bigley – NC DPI State Program Coordinator



Wrap Up/Questions/Adjourn

Polling Questions



What is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)?

- Signed into law on December 10, 2015
- Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students.
- Requires—for the first time—that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- Helps to support and grow local innovations—including evidence-based and place-based interventions developed by local leaders and educators—consistent with our Investing in Innovation and Promise Neighborhoods
- Sustains and expands this administration's historic investments in increasing access to high-quality preschool.
- Maintains an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect
 positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are
 not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods
 of time

References:

Every Student Succeeds Act: Retrieved from https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=rn

Every Student Succeeds Act: Retrieved from https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-

ESSA, continued...

- Established protections for children in foster care under Title I, Part A (Title I).
- Complements the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act)
- Together these laws strengthen opportunities for educational agencies and child welfare agencies to jointly promote school stability and success for students.

Key Terms Defined

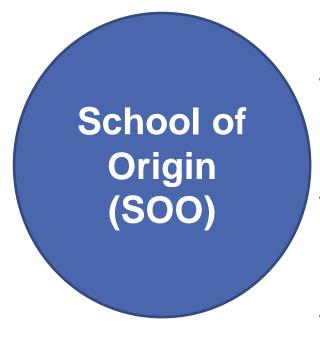
- Local Education Agency (LEA)
- School of Origin
- Immediate Enrollment
- Additional Costs



- Primary educational link between LEAs and DSS agencies
- Help support educational stability for foster care youth and young adults
- Play important role in best interest determinations meetings (BIDs), enrollment and transfer of records, transportation coordination and training of district staff
- Generally the first line of contact when the DSS agency is notifying an LEA regarding custody or placement change of a child
- Facilitates school stability for foster students

Reference:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/ed_hhs_foster_care_guidance.pdf



 The school in which a child is enrolled prior to the child welfare placement (where the child is enrolled at the time of placement into foster care)

 If a child's placement changes, the SOO is the school in which the child was enrolled prior to the placement change

 Student can remain in SOO (unless it is not in his/her best interest) for the duration of time in foster care

 Federal and state guidance encourages schools to continue prioritizing educational stability once student exits foster care

Reference:



- A child in foster care should be enrolled in school as soon as possible in order to prevent educational discontinuity
- The federal guidance further states that enrollment cannot be denied or delayed because documents normally required have not been submitted
- Enrollment means more than technically registered. ESEA defines enrollment as, "attending classes and participating fully in school activities" (ESEA, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 11434(a)(1))

Reference:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/ed_hhs_foster_care_guidance.pdf



- Additional costs should reflect the difference between what an LEA would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school <u>and</u> the cost of transporting a child in foster care to their school of origin.
- The LEA must address any additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin. (ESEA, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 6312(c)(5)(B)(ii))

Educational Stability Process

Notification of Child/Youth Entering Care OR Placement Change Child and Family Team Meeting/ Best Interest Determination Meeting

Making the Best Interest Determination

Education Stability Meeting Ongoing Collaboration and Communication

Educational Stability Forms

- DSS-5133: Foster Care Notification of Placement (Change) Form
 - Within a day of a child's placement this form must be provided to the child's school
- DSS-5137: Best Interest Determination Form
 - If a BID meeting does not occur prior to initial entry into foster care or change in placement. Must complete within 5 school days of a child's entry into foster care or change of placement.
- DSS-5135: Foster Care Immediate Enrollment Form
 - Outcome of BID meeting to enroll in new school, this form is provided to new school within one school day.
- DSS-5245: Child Education Status Form
 - Completed within 7 days of a child entering care

Best Interest Determination Factors

- Preferences of the child;
- Preferences of the child's parent(s) or education decision maker(s);
- The child's attachment to the school, including meaningful relationships with staff and peers;
- 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 child;
- How the length of the commute would impact the child, based on the child's developmental stage

Best Interest Determination Factors, continued...

- Whether the child is a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (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 of origin; and
- Whether the child is an English Learner (EL) and is receiving language services, and, if so, the availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin, consistent with Title VI and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act (EEOA).

QUESTIONS



Sara Bigley

The Serve Center and UNC-Greensboro

Steps to Remain in the School of Origin



Collaboration Plan:

- No one entity/agency will be able to do this alone
- Develop a plan
- Cost efficiency/effectiveness is paramount, although not a dictating force
- Creative solutions
- Dedicated staff and resources

Reference:

http://www.fostercareandeducation.org/Portals/0/pdfs/08%2031%2016_ESSA%20Educationa l%20Stability%20Webinar_Transportation_vFINAL2.pdf

Transportation to School of Origin

- When it is in their best interest, children and youth will need transportation to remain in their school of origin.
- Collaboration between the LEA's and CWA's are imperative
- Development and implementation of clear written procedures.

Best Interest Considerations - Transportation

- Duration
- Time of placement change
- Type of transportation available
- Traffic patterns
- Flexibility in school schedule
- Impact of extracurricular activities on transportation option
- Maturity and behavioral capacity

Best Interest Considerations – Transportation - continued...

- Child's safety and best interests;
- Length and distance of the commute; and
- All available transportation options

Transportation Plan

Local Educational Agencies and Child Welfare
Agencies must collaborate to develop and
implement clear written procedures governing how
transportation to maintain children in foster care in
their schools of origin, when in their best interest,
will be provided, arranged, and funded for the
duration of the child's time in foster care.

Transportation Plan

Should include:

- Clear written procedures
- Local procedures between agencies
- Cost sharing responsibilities
- Transportation plan (low-cost/no-cost)
- Etc.

QUESTIONS



Transportation Procedures - Funding

- Transportation is an allowable use of federal funds, both under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and Title I of the ESEA
- Children in foster care needing transportation to their schools of origin will promptly receive that transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 675(4)(A)); and
- If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the LEA will provide such transportation if:
 - A. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation;
 - B. The LEA agrees to pay for the cost; or
 - C. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost. (ESEA, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 6312(c)(5)(B)(ii))

Funding Options

- Title I, Part A foster care designation in the federal programs Comprehensive, Continuous Improvement Plan Program (CCIP)
- Other local resources (i.e. LEA transportation funds)
- Title IV-E

Cost-Effective/Low-Cost Options

Transportation in a cost-effective manner that is not unduly burdensome on any one agency.

- Drop off at a school bus stop near or in the existing transportation system
- Public transportation
- Foster parent or neighborhood friend
- Pre-existing bus routes or stops close to the new foster care placement that is near district boundaries.
- Eligibility for transportation covered by other programs
- Vendors

Non-allowable funds for ESSA-Foster Care

Funds reserved for comparable services for homeless children and youth under Section 1113(c)(3)(A)(i) of ESEA may not be used to provide transportation needed to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin.

Who can help?



Biological Family

Local Educational Agency

Caretaker

Guardian Ad Litem

Child

Child Welfare Point of Contact

Business Officers

???

Community Mentors Other...

Teachers/ Educational Supports Friends of the Child and Family

Kinship Network

Social Worker

???

Polling Questions



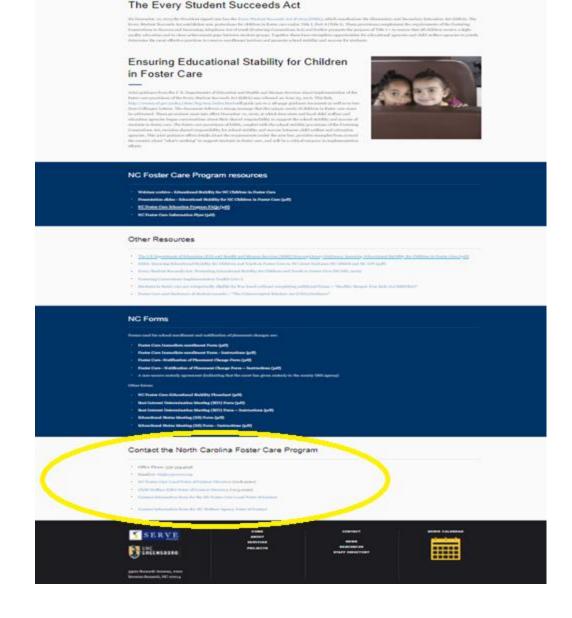
QUESTIONS



Point of Contact Directories

Contact the NC Foster Care Program:

https://serve.uncg.edu/projects/nc-foster%20Care/



Directories and Forms to Update Point of Contact Information

https://serve.uncg.edu/projects/nc-foster%20Care/

Contact the North Carolina Foster Care Program

- Office Phone: 336.334.4638
- Email at: sbigley@serve.org
- NC Foster Care Local Point of Contact Directory (9.18.2020)
- Child Welfare ESSA Point of Contact Directory (9.11.2020)
- Contact information form for the NC Foster Care Local Point of Contact
- Contact information form the NC Welfare Agency Point of Contact

CW ESSA Point of Contact Information Form

	SERVE.	
Please complete the information below to add or update your information to the North Carolina Foster Care Local Point of Contact Directory.		
	wing information for the person who is to be ADDED as the NC Foster Care Local Point of mation should be professional contact, not personal contact.)	
Date		
First Name		
Last Name		
Is this person the Fo Care Local Point of Contact for the distr (Yes/No) Name of School Dist (LEA or Charter	ict?	
School)		
Title/Position		
Work Email Address		
Work Phone Numbe		
Work Street Address	;	
City		
Zip Code		
Please complete the follow Contact Directory.	wing information for the person who is to be <u>removed</u> from the NC Foster Care Local Point of	
First Name		
Last Name		
This info	rmation will be recorded exactly as entered. Please review your entries for accuracy.	
	Remember to click the "submit" button.	



Please complete the information below to ADD your information to or REMOVE your information from the

North Carolina Child Welfare Agency Point of Contact for Schools Directory.

Please complete the following information for the person who is to be <u>ADDED</u> as the North Carolina Child Welfare Agency Point of Contact for Schools. (NOTE: All information should be professional contact, not personal contact.)

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)		
First Name		
Last Name		
Is this person the North Carolina Child Welfare Agency Point of Contact for Schools (Yes/No) Name of Child Welfare Agency Title		
Work Email Address		
Work Phone Number		
Work Street Address		
City		
Zip Code		
•	llowing information for the person who is to be REMOVED felfare Agency Point of Contact for Schools directory.	rom the
First Name		
Last Name		

This information will be recorded exactly as entered. Please review your entries for accuracy.

Please click the "Submit" button below to complete your submission.

Resources

- NC Child Welfare Permanency Planning and Cross-Function Manuals: https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/socialservices/child-welfare/policy-manuals/modified-manual-1
- The US Department of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS) Non-regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Stability for Children in Foster Care (pdf): https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/ed-hhs-foster-care-non-regulatory-guidance
- ESSA: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children and Youth in Foster Care in NC-Joint Guidance NC DHHS and NC DPI (pdf)
- Fostering Connections Implementation Toolkit (2011)
- Foster Care and disclosure of student records "The Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA) Guidance

Cross System Language

CWA	Child Welfare Agency
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act
ESSA	Every Student Succeeds Act
LEA	Local Education Agency
POC	Point of Contact
SOO	School of Origin

For More Information

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State Education Agency Foster Care
Point of Contact

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