Information for School District Foster Care Liaisons

WHERE TO START?

1. Notify OSPI [here](#) when you have new Foster Care Liaison information to update.
2. Subscribe to GovDelivery for email/text alerts [here](#).
3. Notify campus and district leaders of your status as foster care liaison.
4. Run a CEDARS report to identify students in foster care. [Instructions here](#).
5. Visit the OSPI Foster Care Education website to check for webinars and [upcoming trainings](#).
6. Review the [Guide to Supporting Students in Foster Care](#).
7. Review the [state and federal laws](#) related to educational stability for foster youth.

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISON:

- Coordinate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families on the implementation of state and federal laws related to students in out-of-home care. Find the DCYF Education Lead for your region [here](#).
- Coordinate with OSPI Foster Care Education program staff.
- Attend training and professional development opportunities to improve school district implementation efforts.
- Serve as the primary contact person for representatives of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.
- Lead and document the development of a process for making [best interest determinations](#).
- Ensure that students in foster care are receiving free meals at school.
- Facilitate [immediate enrollment](#).
- Facilitate the transfer of student records.
- Develop and coordinate local transportation procedures.
- Manage [best interest determination](#) and transportation cost [disputes](#) according to the best practices developed by OSPI.
- Ensure that students in out-of-home care are enrolled in and regularly attending school.
- Provide professional development and training to school staff on state and federal laws related to students in out-of-home care and their educational needs, as needed.

KEY ESSA PROVISIONS

- Children in foster care remain in the school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in his or her best interest.
- If it is in the best interest of the child to leave the school of origin, the child must be immediately enrolled in the new school even if they don’t have the required documentation. The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended to obtain the child’s records.
- LEAs must collaborate with CWAs to develop and implement clear written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of a child’s time in foster care.
- Some children in foster care may still be eligible for McKinney-Vento services (e.g., youth who are living in transitional shelters or motels).