

# Educational Stability in Foster Care

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MISSISSIPPI  
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November 16, 2022



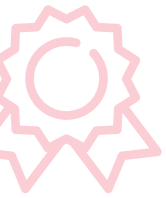
## VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



## MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



1

**ALL** Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

**EVERY** Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

**EVERY** Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

**EVERY** School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



**EVERY** Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



**EVERY** School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes provisions that promote educational stability for children in foster care so they can continue their education without disruption, maintain important relationships, and have the opportunity to achieve college and career readiness.**

## Foster Care

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



- Foster Family Homes
- Kinship Placements
- Group Homes
- Emergency Shelters
- Residential Facilities
- Childcare Institutions
- Pre-adoptive homes

- 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 CPS to develop & implement clear written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of a child's time in foster care.

- Collaboration
- Best Interest Determination
- Immediate Enrollment
- Transportation



# Responsibilities



Local School Districts & Local Child Protective Services



## MDE POC

- ✓ Collaboration (LEA & CPS)
- ✓ Provide assistance upon request
- ✓ Provide clarification for transportation
- ✓ Provide technical assistance
- ✓ Maintain the contact list for LEA's POCs
- ✓ Provide professional development opportunities for LEA POCs

## LEA's POC

- ✓ Collaboration (other LEA staff & CPS workers)
- ✓ Identify students in foster care through MSIS
- ✓ Complete the BID Process
- ✓ Ensure transportation for foster care students
- ✓ Ensure immediate enrollment or transfer of records
- ✓ Ensure the services needed are provided to the student



## MDCPS POC

- ✓ Collaborate with LEAs to ensure immediate enrollment
- ✓ Collaborate with LEAs for transportation plans
- ✓ Assist the youth's worker, foster parent, or agency designee in educational concerns
- ✓ Ensure comprehensive tests & IEP meetings are following IDEA & MDE SBP

## MDCPS Case Worker

- ✓ Ensure continuity of education by keeping child in a familiar school or neighborhood.
- ✓ Identify students in foster care through MSIS
- ✓ Complete the BID Process
- ✓ Ensure transportation for foster care students
- ✓ Ensure immediate enrollment or transfer of records
- ✓ Ensure the services needed are provided to the student

Making all reasonable efforts to ensure the continuity of a child's educational experience by keeping the child in a familiar or current school and neighborhood when feasible and in the child's best interests by limiting the number of schools changes the child experiences.

If school change is unavoidable, the MDCPS caseworker or agency designee (including foster parents) must enroll the child in the most appropriate educational setting available to meet the child's needs as identified through the BID process.

Ensuring the child's educational needs are met. Services may include, IEP, tutoring, occupational therapy, speech therapy, or after-school programs. (attend IEP meetings)

Obtaining educational records from the school(s) and maintaining the records in the child's case file.

# Best Interest Determination (BID)



LEAs and MDCPS

**The Best Interest Determination (BID) is a collaborative decision about whether the student should remain in their school of origin or be immediately enrolled in a new school.**

## Required Process includes:

- When a child/youth comes into custody
- When there is a change in placement
- Always completed by the School District of Origin
- Must complete within 5 business days
- If there is a disagreement regarding school placement for general education students in foster care, MDCPS is considered the final decision maker
- When feasible & appropriate, a student must remain in his/her school of origin while BIDs are being made



# Transportation

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**Any child in foster care needing transportation to their school of origin must promptly receive transportation services, regardless of whether the district provides transportation otherwise.**

The LEA must collaborate with the local MDCPS to develop & implement clear written transportation procedures in accordance with 20 U.S.C. §6312(c)(5)(B) if the child remains in their school's attendance zone

This requirement includes students in foster care who attend public pre-schools

The two entities must establish a system that expedites transportation for children placed in foster care

Transportation should not be a factor when deciding the BID for the foster care student

# Enrollment

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A student must be enrolled within two business days (even without normally required records)

Enrollments may be initiated by a local MDCPS representative or designee (e.g., the foster parent with express written permission from MDCPS)

Withdrawal of a student must be initiated by a local MDCPS representative

**FOSTER PARENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WITHDRAW A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE**

# Federal & State Statutes, MDE SBP

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[Federal Joint Guidance](#)

[Fostering Connections to Success](#)

[Fostering Connections to Success & Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008](#)

[The Uninterrupted Scholars Act](#)

[Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#)

[IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

[Free Appropriate Public Education for students with disabilities](#)

[Public Law 94-142](#)

[Protecting Student Privacy](#)

[MDE Rule 30.8 Foster Care Policy](#)

[MDE Rule 74.19 Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act](#)

[MDE Rule 74.1 Educable Child Program](#)

[MDCPS Policies](#)



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