

## FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan

**Local Educational Agency (LEA)** Lauren County

**Superintendent Name** Dr. Daniel Brigman

**Mailing Address** 467 Fire Tower Road

**Physical Address (if different from above)** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** Dublin **Zip** 31021

**Foster Care Point of**

**Contact (POC) Name** Summer Faulk **POC Email** summerfaulk@lcboe.net


**POC Mailing Address** 467 Fire Tower Road

**City** Dublin **Zip** 31021

**POC Telephone** 478-272-4767 **POC Fax** 478-277-2619

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Signature

6/19/2018

Date 

Dr. DANIEL V. BRIGMAN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Superintendent

## FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan

The Georgia Department of Education (Department) is required to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care. (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)). In coordination with state and tribal child welfare agencies, the Department must ensure that its LEAs implement the Title I educational stability requirements for children in foster care, including ensuring that:

- A child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in that child's best interest;
- If it is not in the child's best interest to stay in his or her school of origin, the child is immediately enrolled in the new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment; and,
- That the new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin to obtain relevant academic and other records. (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)-(iii)). In fulfilling this role, the SEA should coordinate with the state or tribal child welfare agency to develop and disseminate uniform guidelines for implementing the Title I educational stability provisions. Developing uniform statewide policies and procedures for ensuring educational stability for children in foster care, as many States have already done under the Fostering Connections Act, will facilitate successful implementation at the local level. This is particularly important given the shared agency responsibility for educational stability under Title I and the Fostering Connections Act, and because a single LEA or local child welfare agency will likely have to collaborate with multiple partner agencies in implementing these provisions.

Additionally, the SEA must conduct regular monitoring and oversight to guarantee appropriate implementation of these provisions at the local level. (See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. § 76.770).

On the state level, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), which houses the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) periodically sends a list of children in foster care that are flagged in the Department's student information system for information sharing and reporting purposes; however, on the local level, LEAs will be notified directly by foster parents, Court Appointed Special Advocate, DFCS case workers or Education Support Monitors (ESM), within the Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) unit of DFCS. Once identified, LEAs must implement its plan to ensure educational stability for children in care. For the best interest of the children in care, LEAs should follow all mandated regulations under FERPA and keep the status of these children confidential.

As a result, the Department is requiring all LEAs, including virtual schools and charter schools that function as an LEA, to complete a Foster Care Transportation Plan. The plan should be completed in addition to the development and implementation of written transportation procedures and the identification of a Foster Care Point of Contact. Please complete this plan and return it by:

**Tuesday, July 31, 2018**

### **Instructions for submission:**

- After the LEA superintendent signs the assurances, scan the entire document as a PDF and save it as the "FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan".
- Access the Consolidated Application for FY19.
- Go to the attachments tab.
- Upload the signed PDF version of the document.
- Email confirmation of your submission to the Department Foster Care Point of Contact, Ms. Whitney Mitchell, at [wmitchell@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wmitchell@doe.k12.ga.us).

## FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan

**NOTE:** In order to answer the questions below, refer to the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care.

<b>I. Foster Care Transportation Plan: PLANNING</b>			
<p>A. The LEA's role is to have a transportation plan in place for children in foster care to their school of origin. Describe your plan to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate transportation with the local child welfare agency.</li> <li>2. Implement steps to be taken if additional costs are incurred.</li> <li>3. Execute the local dispute resolution process.</li> </ol> <p>Include the roles of key players (e.g. LEA Foster Care Point of Contact, LEA Superintendent, LEA Federal Program Director, EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor, Case Worker, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Juvenile Court representative, etc.) <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>When transportation to the school of origin is needed, the case worker, foster parents, ESM or EPAC, will notify the Transportation Director and LEA Foster Care POC. If additional costs are incurred, within three days DFCS and LEA will meet to discuss costs. When a dispute arises, transportation is arranged until a meeting is held with DFCS, Transportation Director, LEA Foster Care Liaison, and the Principal/designee.</p>			
<p>B. What steps should an LEA and local child welfare agency take to ensure that transportation is provided immediately, even if they face difficulty reaching agreement on how to pay for additional transportation costs? <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>When a child is placed in foster care, DFCS will immediately notify the Transportation Director, Principal/designee and LEA Foster Care POC. Within county transportation to the school of origin will be arranged, prior to DCFS and the LEA meeting to discuss best placement options, including continuation at the school of origin or enrollment at the school that the foster care home/facility is zoned.</p>			
<p>C. The LEA must designate a Foster Care Point of Contact that coordinates with the local child welfare agency. Describe the point of contact's role and responsibilities. <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>Foster Care Point of Contact will support academic achievement as well as the social/emotional needs of students who have been placed in foster care. As a part of this role, the Foster Care Point of Contact will identify resources, including training to carry out the goal of supporting foster care youth. The Foster Care Point of Contact will take expeditious steps to resolve disputes</p>			
<b>II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS</b>			
<p>A. If a child is placed within the LEA's school attendance area and projected transportation cost are negligible, transportation should be immediately provided without supplemental assistance from the local child welfare agency. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the LEA will provide transportation to the school of origin if:</p>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation.	No		
2. The LEA agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation.	No		
3. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.	Yes		
<p>Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs. <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>When additional costs are incurred to maintain transportation to the school of origin, the DFCS and LEA have agreed to meet and review each situation on a case by case basis to determine if the DFCS and/or the LEA would pay the costs.</p>			



Georgia Department of Education  
Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
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B. All LEAs must meet the requirement to provide transportation for children who are in foster care to their schools of origin ( <i>Similar to the McKinney-Vento requirement for students experiencing homelessness</i> ). Does your LEA currently provide transportation services? If no, describe your plan to meet this mandate.	Yes
<i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i>	

**ASSURANCES**

By checking the box beside each statement and by affixing my signature to these Assurances, I certify that I have read each and agree to be held accountable for the content of each of the following statements:

- The LEA will collaborate with state or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of time in foster care.
- The LEA ensures that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin promptly receive such transportation in a cost-effective manner.
- The LEA ensures that children in foster care remain in the school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved.
- The LEA will collaborate with State or local child welfare agency to provide transportation if a child is placed in foster care placement across district, county, or State lines.
- In accordance to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Fostering Connections Act, the LEA will continue to provide transportation to children that exited foster care for the remainder of the school year, if it is in the best interest of the student.

I am authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of the applicant. My signature certifies that all information included in the application is accurate. I understand that all information submitted is subject to verification.

Laurens County  
LEA Name

Dr. Donna Bregman  
Printed Name of Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT  
Title

[Signature]  
Signature of Superintendent  
(Please sign in blue ink only)

12/19/2018  
Date