



**SECTION: STUDENTS**

**POLICY: 255**

**TITLE: EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

**ORIGINAL:** February 27, 2017

**CURRENT REVISION:**

**LAST REVIEWED BY THE**

**COMMITTEE:** March 23, 2021

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. The Board recognizes the need to promote greater stability for children in foster care so that foster care students can continue their education without disruption, maintain important relationships with peers and adults, and have the opportunity to achieve college-and career-readiness.
- B. The Board shall ensure that students in foster care remain in their school of origin, unless it is determined to be in their best interest to change schools.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. **Additional costs** can be the difference between what the district spends to transport a resident student to his/her assigned school and the cost to transport a child in foster care to his/her school of origin.
- B. **Foster care** means twenty-four (24) hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, childcare institutions, and pre-adoptive homes. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made by the state, tribal or local agency for the care of the child, whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption, or whether there is federal matching of any payments that are made.
- C. **School of origin** is the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. 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.

**III. POLICY**

Pursuant to the Elementary Secondary Education Act, amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Board requires the district to collaborate with the local children and youth agencies and other school districts to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care.

**IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

- A. The Board designates the Home and School Visitor to serve as the district's point of contact for children in foster care.

- a. The district's point of contact shall coordinate with:
  - i. Local children and youth agency to:
  - ii. Establish formal mechanisms to ensure that the district is promptly notified when a child enters foster care or changes foster care placements.
  - iii. Develop a protocol on how to make best interest determinations; and
  - iv. Develop and coordinate transportation procedures.
- b. Other school districts on issues of transfer of records, transportation and other inter-district activities.

**V. REFERENCES**

20 U.S.C. 6311  
20 U.S.C. 6312  
42 U.S.C. 675  
45 CFR 1355.20  
Pol. 200  
Pol. 206  
Pol. 202  
20 U.S.C. 1232g  
Pol. 216.1  
Pol. 810  
34 CFR 299.13