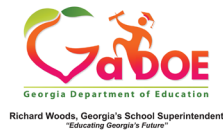
**FY23 Foster Care Transportation Plan**

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Clayton County**Superintendent Name** Dr. Morcease J. Beasley**Mailing Address** 1058 Fifth Avenue**Physical Address (if different from above)** _____**City** Jonesboro **Zip** 30236**Foster Care Point of****Contact (POC) Name** Katrina Thompson **POC Email** katrina.thompson@clayton.k12.ga.us**POC Mailing Address** 1058 Fifth Avenue**City** Jonesboro **Zip** 30236**POC Telephone** 678-817-3081 **POC Fax** 770-473-27116/27/2022Superintendent SignatureDateDr. Morcease J. BeasleyPrint Name of Superintendent



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The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) 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 GaDOE 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.

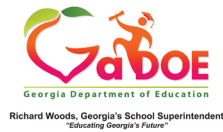
Additionally, the SEA must conduct regular monitoring and oversight to guarantee appropriate implementation of these provisions at the local level. (See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. § 76.770).

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 GaDOE's student information system for information sharing and reporting purposes. On the local level, LEAs are now able to retrieve a list of children in foster care to better identify and provide services. LEAs are to continue collaborating with their local child welfare agencies and may periodically receive information directly from foster parents, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), 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 GaDOE 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.

Instructions for submission:

- After the LEA superintendent signs the assurances, scan the entire document as a PDF and save it as the "FY23 Foster Care Transportation Plan".
- Upload the signed PDF version of the document to the CLIP online portal via the Consolidated Application for FY23.



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

I. Foster Care Transportation Plan: PLANNING

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:

1. Coordinate transportation with the local child welfare agency.
2. Implement steps to be taken if additional costs are incurred.
3. Execute the local dispute resolution process.

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.) *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

Clayton County Public School (CCPS) system's Foster Care Point of Contact, Coordinator of Federal Programs, Director of Transportation, foster parents, and any identified points of contact from the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and/or Education Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) unit will collaborate for the purpose of providing transportation for a child in foster care to his or her school of origin or the school deemed educationally appropriate.

When transportation of the foster child is an issue, the above parties will collaborate to develop a transportation plan that meets the needs of the individual child. The school system and representatives from DFCS and the foster parents will explore no cost plans first. In an event of a dispute, the district and DFCS will defer to the Director of Federal Programs and/or the Superintendent for a final decision.

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? *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

CCPS and DFCS will work cooperatively to ensure that transportation is not a barrier to the educational stability of children placed in foster care. All parties will follow the steps below if they face difficulty reaching an agreement on how to pay for additional transportation costs:

1. CCPS will assume financial responsibility for costs incurred as the result of the re-routing of school transportation while DFCS will assume financial responsibility for costs associated with reimbursing foster parents for travel or the cost of contracting with transportation companies.
2. Initial transportation planning will occur between the Foster Care Point of Contact, Director of Transportation, and DFCS. Disputes will be forwarded to the Director of Federal Programs and/or the district's Superintendent for resolution.
3. Final determination of how to pay for additional transportation costs will be made by the Director of Federal Programs, DFCS, and the Director of Transportation

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. *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

The district's Director of Federal Programs is the Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) for Clayton County Public Schools. Ms. Thompson will contact the Director of Transportation immediately when foster parents and/or DFCS contacts her for a request for transportation of a Clayton County Public Schools system student placed in foster care. The point of contact will also collaborate with the Coordinator of Federal Programs, Coordinator of Counseling, School Social Worker, foster parents, DFCS, and the Director of Transportation to ensure academic and/or transportation needs for children in foster care are met in a timely manner. The POC and Coordinator of Federal Programs will ensure children in foster care



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are enrolled in their school of origin, schedule best interest determination meetings (if needed), collaborate with child welfare agencies and their representatives, and monitor children in foster care attendance and grades.

II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS

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:

	YES	NO	N/A
1. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation.	Yes		
2. The LEA agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation.	Yes		
3. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.	Yes		

Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs. *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

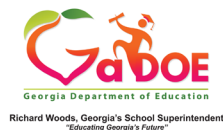
The district will continue to coordinate transportation to ensure children in foster care can remain in their school of origin when possible or transferred immediately without disrupting their educational program. It is the expectation that if additional transportation costs are unavoidable, CCPS and DFCS will share the transportation costs. DFCS will assume financial responsibility for extraordinary costs such as contracting with transportation companies or paying foster parents to transport farther than the identified miles. Clayton County Public Schools will assume financial responsibility for costs associated with re-routing district transportation for foster students and coordination of out of district transportation.

B. All LEAs must meet the requirement to provide transportation for children who are in foster care to their schools of origin (*Similar to the McKinney-Vento requirement for students experiencing homelessness*). Does your LEA currently provide transportation services? If no, describe your plan to meet this mandate.

Yes

Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.

Clayton County Public Schools system provides bus transportation for students experiencing homelessness



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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 with 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.

Clayton County

LEA Name

Dr. Morcease J. Beasley

Printed Name of Superintendent

Signature of Superintendent

(Please sign in blue ink only)

Superintendent

Title

June 27, 2022 | 9:36:32 AM EDT

Date