

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Henderson County Schools

And

Department for Community Based Services (Henderson County)

MISSION

The mission of Henderson County School (HCS) is to provide extraordinary educational opportunities for every student. The mission of Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) (Henderson County) is to provide services and programs to enhance the self-sufficiency of families; improve safety and permanency for children and vulnerable adults; and engage families and community partners in a collaborative decision-making process.

Together, the Parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to mutually promote that students in foster care have equal access to all educational programs and services, including transportation, which all other students enjoy.

Accordingly, Henderson County Schools and the Department of Community Based Services, operating under this MOU agree as follows:

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

HCS and DCBS will collaborate to ensure all students in Foster Care are provided with immediate access to educational services and barriers are removed that prevent such from happening.

Each organization of this MOU is responsible for its own expenses related to this MOU. There will/will not be an exchange of funds between the parties for tasks associated with this MOU.

RESPONSIBILITIES

HCS will appoint the Director of Pupil Personnel or designee as Foster Care Liaison who shall coordinate activities relating to the District's provision of services to children placed in foster care, including transportation services.

DCBS will appoint Amy Mathis

The organizations agree to the following tasks for this MOU:

HCS will:

- (1) Coordinate with DCBS to ensure educational stability for all students in Foster Care.

(2) Once DCBS has notified HCS that a student being placed in Foster Care or a school age student is moving in to Henderson County in Foster Care

(3) School records will be requested within 24 hours from the student's previous school of enrollment.

(4) The Foster Care Liaison will notify the school where student enrollment will take place.

(5) The school and/or the Foster Care Liaison will assist the Foster Family with school enrollment

(6) The Foster Care Liaison will arrange transportation for the student to travel to and from school. All expenses related to a student in Foster Care being transported will be incurred by the Henderson County Schools.

- The Foster Care Liaison will ensure that all policies and procedures detailed in HCS Board Policy and Procedure 09.12 are followed and carried out in accordance with all state and federal law.
- Children in foster care, including preschool aged children, shall be eligible to attend their "school of origin" unless a determination is made that it is not in the child's best interest. Such determination will be made in collaboration with the child welfare agency. Dispute resolutions shall be handled by all agencies involved in the determination of the foster child's placement.

DCBS will:

- Notify HCS Foster Care Liaison of incoming student if possible two weeks prior to enrollment or within 24 hours of an emergency removal/placement.
- Provide HCS Foster Care Liaison student name, school of origin, grade, last school of attendance and contact information.
- Assist in the coordination of enrollment of the student and provide current placement contact information.
- Coordinate with mental health providers and HCS personnel to ensure educational stability for all students in DCBS care.

TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The term of this MOU is for a period of 5 years from the effective date of this agreement and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. (June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2026)

It shall be reviewed annually to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose and to make any necessary revisions.

Authorization

The signing of this MOU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU.

On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

Henderson County Schools

Superintendent Signature and Date: _____

Director of Pupil Personnel Signature and Date: _____

Board Chairman Signature and Date: _____

Department of Community Based Services

Family Services Office Supervisor Amy Mathis, FSO