

# **Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care Dayton Independent School District and Campbell County Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)**

## **Parties to the Agreement:**

Local Education Agency (LEA): Dayton Independent School District

- Rick Wolf, Superintendent 200 Clay St Dayton, KY 41074 859.491.6565
- Matthew Haskamp, Director of Student Services [Matthew.haskamp@dayton.kyschools.us](mailto:Matthew.haskamp@dayton.kyschools.us) 859. 491. 6565
- Ericka Huff, District Point of Contact [ericka.huff@dayton.kyschools.us](mailto:ericka.huff@dayton.kyschools.us) 859.292.3994

Child Welfare Agency (CWA): Campbell County DCBS

- Anna Yanke, DISD ESSA Point of Contact, 601 Washington Ave., Newport KY 41071 [anna.yanke@ky.gov](mailto:anna.yanke@ky.gov)
- Kelly Skerchock DCBS Service Region Administrator [kellym.skerchock@ky.gov](mailto:kellym.skerchock@ky.gov)

## **Notification to LEA of Best Interest Decision and Identifying Students Who Need Transportation**

CWA will meet with personnel from Dayton Independent School District to identify students who have been placed in foster care or had a placement change.

## **Identification of Students in Foster Care:**

The CWA will identify for the LEA when a child is attending or is to be enrolled at the LEA and is placed in foster care or changes a living placement in foster care as follows: CWA staff will contact the LEA on the day a student enters foster care or changes foster care placement. If it is after business hours, notification will be made the next business day. This contact will be done either via phone call or email.

## **Request to Participate in Best Interest Determination:**

The CWA will notify the LEA immediately upon learning that a student attending the LEA has been placed in care or will be moved to a new home placement that is located outside the LEA catchment area and a best interest decision must be made between the CWA and LEA.

## **Parties required for BID Determination:**

The BID meeting shall be held in the most time efficient manner possible, whether it be in person or virtual/phone. Required members for the meeting shall be the CWA, LEA of origin and LEA of foster residency and foster family. The LEA of residency shall be the responsible party to organize the BID meeting. Meeting shall be facilitated in accordance with KRS 199.802 regulatory guidelines.

### **How Transportation will be Provided, Arranged, and Funded:**

If it is determined that it is in the student's best interest to remain enrolled at the school of origin within DISD, CWA and DISD will collaborate to arrange transportation promptly and in a cost-effective manner. DISD will arrange transportation within five (5) instructional days; DCBS will arrange short-term transportation in the interim as needed. In addition to ESSA and Fostering Connections, the following state law and/or policy provides guidance on addressing transportation in our jurisdiction: KRS 199.802.

#### General

- **Transportation Already Addressed through Other Means:** Transportation is already addressed through other laws/requirements (i.e., part of child's IEP; etc.). The LEA will assess whether the child is entitled to transportation services under another entitlement, including experiencing homelessness or as a related service under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The LEA will provide transportation funded by the LEA if the student is covered by any of the above services. The student's Admissions and Release Committee will review the terms of the special transportation in the student's IEP to determine if the originally agreed upon special transportation is considered to be reasonable and feasible and adjusted as necessary by the committee.
- **Not Limited by What is Offered to Other Students:** The fact that an LEA does not provide transportation for children who are not in foster care does not exempt the LEA from ensuring transportation for children in foster care when in their best interest.
- **Interim transportation** should be addressed to ensure no barriers for the student in foster care while transportation is being worked out between the parties. The LEA will have 5 days to put transportation in place. During those 5 days, the CWA will provide transportation during the interim.

#### No- or Low-Cost Options

- The LEA will examine existing transportation options available for the student, including incorporating the student into an existing bus route, possibly with another school district, modifying an existing bus route, TANK service, or other no- or low-cost options. Transportation will be provided and funded by the Dayton Independent School District if this type of solution is available.

#### Additional Costs

When other options are exhausted, and transportation will require additional costs, the parties will develop written transportation procedures, which can include the following steps to address and minimize costs:

- The parties will assess whether the child's transportation expenses may be covered by other state or local funds.
- If the student is eligible for Title IV-E funds, the CWA will seek reimbursement for the allowable portion of those transportation costs.
- The CWA will assess whether resources are available for foster parents to provide transportation with mileage reimbursement, or another adult rideshare to LEA or to a stop on an LEA existing route.

- The preferred immediate transportation option is for the student's caregiver or another appropriate adult (such as non-custodial parents, kin, a mentor) to provide transportation with mileage reimbursement.
  - CWA caseworkers must coordinate with a caregiver to arrange transportation under this option.
  - If caregiver transportation is an option, CWA accepts sole responsibility for the costs of caregiver mileage reimbursement to the school of origin. The CWA caseworker is responsible for arranging this with the caregiver.

**Resolving Disputes**

1. If the LEA and CWA cannot resolve a dispute about transportation costs, the following mechanism will be used, and these steps will be taken to ensure prompt School of Origin transportation: The student will be transported via low-cost and appropriate option as described above while the dispute is resolved.
2. While a dispute is pending, the LEA **must** ensure transportation is provided or arranged for the child.
3. The CWA makes the final best interest determination with the LEA.

**Other Considerations**

How Parties Will Coordinate when other School Districts are Involved: Parties will coordinate with the School District point of contact.


How this Agreement Applies to Other Child Welfare Agencies with Students in the LEA: This Agreement applies to any student who meets the federal definition of "foster care" as described above, regardless of placement agency.

**Annual Renewal**

The terms of this agreement will be reviewed and revised once the case is established and prior to the beginning of next school year.

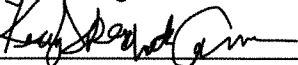
These transportation procedures were agreed to on the following date:

Authorized Signature

  
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District Superintendent

Authorized Signature

  
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Kelly Skerchock, MSW Service Region Administrator

Northern Bluegrass Service Region Department for Community Based Services