



Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Working Together for Student Success

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals
FROM: Lisa Truitt, State Attendance Officer
Indiana Department of Education

Jeff Wittman, Foster Youth Coordinator
Indiana Department of Education

Mike LaRocco, Director of Transportation
Indiana Department of Education

Melaina Gant, Education Services Director
Indiana Department of Child Services

DATE: April 4, 2017

SUBJECT: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Foster Youth

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [letter](#) that addresses the ESSA Title 1 provisions related to youth in Foster Care. The effective date for following provisions is December 10, 2016:

- The requirement that State Title I Plans describe the steps a SEA will take to ensure collaboration with the State Child Welfare Agency to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care, including assurances that those children can remain in their school of origin if in their best interest and be immediately enrolled in a new school when not staying in their school of origin.
- The requirement that LEAs collaborate with child welfare agencies to develop and implement 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 (with LEAs to pay additional costs only if reimbursed by child welfare agencies or if the LEA agrees to pay or share costs). Indiana's child welfare agency is centralized and there are no state funds available for transportation to be paid to local education agencies.
- Title 1 funds may be used to fund foster youth transportation needs.
- Schools, including Charter Schools that do not transport general population students, must transport foster youth.

- LEA's can work with the Foster parents to determine if they are willing and able to provide transportation.
- The LEA Title 1 Plans must provide assurances that the LEA will collaborate with child welfare agencies to designate a Foster Care point of contact.

Information and resources for supporting foster youth are available on the IDOE website.

The Indiana Department of Child Services and the Indiana Department of Education are dedicated to ensuring educational stability for children in foster care.

If there are any questions of assistance requested please contact:

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