



Michael R. Pence, Governor
Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director
Indiana Department of Child Services
Room E306 – MS47
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2738
317-234-KIDS
FAX: 317-234-4497
www.in.gov/dcs
Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757
Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

December 7, 2016

Indiana Local Public School Corporation

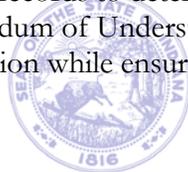
ATTN: Superintendent

As you are aware, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), has requirements which directly impact the education of foster youth and work to further strengthen the relationship between school staff and child welfare agency staff. Pursuant to the requirements of the ESSA, the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) would like to collaborate with your school to establish Point of Contact (POC) for each agency/local school, review educational records to ensure best interests are considered in determining school attendance of out of home wards, and develop a written plan regarding the transportation of foster youth.

Because Indiana has a centralized Child Welfare Agency, I am the state and local POC. Because I have been identified as both the state and local POC for DCS, the communication for this purpose should be sent directly to me. I will then filter the requests to the Education Services team and the local DCS Education Liaison (EL) will be in contact with the DCS Family Case Manager (FCM) on the child's case and your local POC to work together to make the best interests determination. DCS has prepared a draft checklist that we would like to offer of the items that will be considered when making the determination. Please take a moment to review and contact me with any comments or edit proposals by December 16, 2016. My contact information is listed below and on the enclosed draft POC checklist.

While Indiana Code establishes the requirement of transportation of foster youth to their school of origin when school district lines are shared, the ESSA goes further and requires transportation of foster youth to and from their schools of origin when in their best interest, no matter where the district boundaries lay. This subsequently requires our two agencies to collaborate to develop and implement clear written procedures regarding how transportation of our youth will be arranged, provided and how our agencies have agreed upon additional cost responsibility and dispute resolution. Please share my contact information with the individual who will be working with DCS to establish these written procedures for your school corporation.

As our agencies are to review educational records to determine best interests of our youth, it is also the desire of DCS to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with your school corporation in order to share the information while ensuring confidential and personally identifiable



Protecting our children, families and future

information is kept secure. Please provide the contact information of the individual who I will need to work with to establish this MOU.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the educational needs of our foster youth are being met.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Melaina Gant, M.Ed.
Director, Education Services
Indiana Department of Child Services
302 W. Washington Street, E306
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317)515-7331 (cell)



Protecting our children, families and future