

STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

Students in foster care are entitled to educational stability under Title I for the duration of their time in foster care. “Foster care” means “24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility.” This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive home.

The District will take efforts to ensure that a child in foster care:

- Remains in his or her school of origin (school last enrolled in at the time of placement in foster care) unless it is not in the child’s best interest; or
- If the school of origin is not in the child’s best interest, the child must be immediately enrolled in a new school regardless of being able to produce records otherwise required .

The District will collaborate with the child welfare agency involved in a particular student’s case to make the “best interest” determination as quickly as possible. The “best interest” determination should involve child welfare representatives, a representative from the school of origin knowledgeable about the child, child (depending on age), foster parents, biological parents (if appropriate), administrators, educational decision makers.

These requirements do not change the requirements for placement decisions for students with disabilities under either IDEA or Section 504. These decisions still must be made by the student’s IEP or 504 team, but child welfare agency representatives can be included.

Transportation to the school in which the student is enrolled involves a collaboration between the school district and child welfare agency. The District will also collaborate with the child welfare agency regarding the provision of transportation to the selected school for the student. The District may fund transportation of a student in foster care out of Title I funds. CFS also can use certain funds to pay for transportation.

The District will identify a “point of contact” to oversee implementation of these requirements. This point of contact may be the same person identified as the Homeless Liaison in the District and shall have the same responsibilities with respect to students in foster care identified for homeless students.