

Foster Care Transportation Plan- Emanuel County School System

- A. The LEA's role is to have a transportation plan in place for children in foster care to their school of origin.
 - 1. Procedures have been drafted to coordinate transportation for students placed in foster care in Emanuel County. The Emanuel County Foster Care Point of Contact will meet at least monthly with the EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor or designee, Social Services Supervisor, Case Worker(s), any Court Appointed Special Advocate (s), and other Juvenile Court representatives to review current cases. In the case of an emergency placement, the Foster Care Point of Contact and the Case Worker will coordinate efforts to determine transportation needs of student. The Transportation Rubric will be completed on students to determine if there is a need to transport them to their school of origin outside of Emanuel County. The rubric will be completed by the Transportation Committee that will include the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact, EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor, Case Worker, Court Appointed Advocate, and any other Juvenile Court representatives. Students scoring great than 21 points will be determined to need transportation to their school of origin.
 - 2. If it is determined that a child will be transported to their school of origin the ECS transportation department will provide a bus and bus driver to immediately begin to transport the student to the nearest bus stop within the system of origin or to the school of origin if necessary for the safety and wellbeing of the student. ECS will continue to provide transportation to children that exit foster care for the remainder of the school year, if it is in the best interest of the student.
 - 3. Local Dispute Resolution Process:
 - a. If the decision of the committee for the student to not return to their school of origin is disputed, the committee will convene to hear arguments in favor of student returning to school of origin. The committee will review the completed rubric to see if there are changes in scoring based on information gained in follow-up meeting. If the student scores the appropriate number of points on the follow-up evaluation, transportation will be provided to school of origin. If committee maintains initial ruling, transportation will not be provided. During the time that the dispute is being settled, the student will be transported to the school of origin.
 - b. If there is a dispute in transportation costs, the ECS transportation department will provide a detailed summary of expenses to the Foster Care Transportation Committee. Any disputes over costs shown on invoice will be brought before a neutral moderator to determine fairness of expenses. Any dispute of transportation costs will not interfere with transportation services provided to foster care students.
- B. Emanuel County Schools and the local child welfare agency through consistent and professional communication will ensure that transportation is provided immediately to students determined to need transportation. The LEA and local child welfare agency will

consider and utilize all allowable funding sources, including Federal funds, to cover additional transportation costs. The agencies will maximize all possible funding sources in this manner to ensure that transportation costs for children in foster care do not become unduly burdensome on any one agency. The Foster Care Transportation Committee agreed that any cost associated with transportation within Emanuel County will be the responsibility of the Emanuel County School System. Cost associated with a student being transported to another system will be calculated at \$2 per mile based on current fuel prices (07/24/17). Any disputes of expenses will be settled by a neutral moderator and will not hinder transportation needs of students.

- C. Procedures have been drafted to coordinate transportation for students placed in foster care in Emanuel County. Emanuel County Foster Care Point of Contact will meet at least monthly with the EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor (or designee), Social Services Supervisor, Case Worker(s), any Court Appointed Special Advocate (s), and other Juvenile Court representatives to review current cases. All agencies involved will be updated on current status of foster care students within our district. The local child welfare agency (LCWA) will be the point of contact for the Emanuel County School System. The LCWA in conjunction with the Foster Care Point of Contact will monitor transportation being provided to foster care students to insure the safety and well-being of the student as well as submitting appropriate documents for reimbursement for transportation costs.
- D. If a child is placed within the Emanuel County School's attendance area and projected transportation cost are negligible, transportation will be immediately provided without supplemental assistance from the local child welfare agency. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain child in foster care in their schools of origin, Emanuel County Schools will provide transportation to the school of origin and the school system and the local child welfare agency will agree to share the cost of such transportation. Cost associated with a student being transported to another system will be calculated at \$2 per mile based on current fuel prices (07/24/17).
- E. Emanuel County Schools will use the plan outlined in this document to insure that all transportation needs of students in foster care are met.

Addendum 1: Rubric to Determine Foster Care Child School Placement

Student Name:

Date:

DIRECTIONS: Evaluate circumstances by selecting a statement from the list in each criteria. The points on left of the most accurate statement should be listed as the points earned for each criteria. The total points should be calculated and entered in the last column. Students earning greater than 21 points should be transported to their school of origin.

POINTS/CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED
Safety Concerns at School of Origin	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Current issues that compromise safety of child 2- Suspected safety concerns 3- Safety issues could arise 4- No Safety Issues 	
Child's Age	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Grades PK-2 2- Grades 3-5 3- Grades 6-8 4- Grades 9-12 	
Placement of Siblings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- No Siblings 2- Siblings are place in LEA schools 3- Some siblings are placed in LEA School 4- All siblings are placed in school of origin 	
Special Needs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- No Special Needs 2- Special Needs can be addressed in the LEA school 3- Services could be provided by either school system 4- Student has special needs that are best addressed in school of origin 	
Time in School Year	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 1st nine weeks 2- 2nd nine weeks 3- 3rd nine weeks 4- 4th nine weeks 	
Distance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Less than 10 miles to School of Origin (SOO) 2- Greater than 10 miles and less than 20 miles to SOO 3- Greater than 20 miles and less than 30 miles to SOO 4- Greater than 30 miles to SOO 	
Effect of Commute	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Time of commute would cause undue stress 2- It is highly likely commute would have adverse effects on student 3- Commute could have adverse effects on student 4- Commute would have no adverse effects 	
TOTAL	

Addendum 2: Emanuel County Federal Programs Procedures for Foster Care Transportation

Foster Care Transportation

The Foster Care Point of Contact and the local child welfare agency through consistent and professional communication will ensure that transportation is provided immediately to students determined to need transportation. The following steps will ensure that transportation needs are met in a timely manner that will not interfere with the academic needs of the student:

1. Local child welfare agency will contact The Foster Care Point of Contact in Emanuel County to inform system of new placement.
2. Transportation needs will be reviewed by committee and rubric will determine school placement.
3. Transportation department will be notified of committee decision and route changes will be initiated so that transportation can begin within 1 school day of enrollment.
4. The local child welfare agency in conjunction with the Foster Care Point of Contact will monitor transportation being provided to foster care students to insure the safety and well-being of the student.
5. Transportation needs within the geographical borders of Emanuel County will be provided at no additional cost by the Emanuel County School System. Transportation to the system of origin will be calculated at \$2 per mile based on current fuel prices (07/24/17). The LEA and local child welfare agency will consider and utilize all allowable funding sources, including Federal funds, to cover additional transportation costs.