

## **Edmond Public Schools Foster Child Transportation Plan**

### **Overview**

Edmond Public Schools will work in collaboration with all concerned adults, students, and the local Department of Human Services Office to ensure equitable access to a child in foster care as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Children in foster care will always be allowed to enroll in their school of residence as required under both federal and state law.

### **Identification**

The DHS point-of-contact will identify children in foster care who need transportation assistance, by contacting EPS point of contact. The EPS point of contact as the Educational Services Coordinator of federal programs.

### **Transportation**

Transportation for children in foster care will be provided by the foster family, DHS, or EPS utilizing the most cost effective means to do so (475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act)).

If the child's school of origin is an EPS school and the child is placed in a foster home outside of EPS boundaries, the district point of contact will work with DHS and/or the foster family to determine if the school of origin remains the school of best interest for the child. This determination will primarily take the following into consideration:

- The wishes of the child;
- The wishes of the foster family (according to state law);
- The wishes of DHS;
- The distance and time required for travel;
- The safety of the child;
- Any applicable services available at the school of residence vs. the school of origin.

Additional costs for transportation (whether in-district or out-of-district) will be financed through one of the following methods as provided for under the ESSA and federal regulation (ESEA 1112(c)(5)(B)):

- DHS agrees to reimburse EPS for any additional cost;
- EPS agrees to pay for the additional cost;
- EPS and DHS agree to share the additional cost.

Additional costs are calculated by the district Transportation Office and take into account the availability of district transportation, the distance of the child's residence from the nearest applicable bus stop, and any related fuel and staffing costs necessary in order to provide transportation.

The time required in order for the district to arrange transportation varies depending upon a number of factors such as current demand, availability of staff and/or vehicles, and location of student. For this reason, if transportation is requested the foster family or DHS arrange for

temporary transportation of the child(ren) for at least one week; however, the average time required is usually less than this.

### **Reasonable Distance**

While EPS believes that the school of best interest for a child is most often their school of origin, this is not always the case. Sometimes, the commute time and/or distance is so great that transporting the child would have a negative impact on the child's social and/or academic life. For this reason, EPS provides the following general guidance on what the district considers to be a reasonable commute distance and time.

- Commute distance: 20 miles
- Commute time (one way): 30 minutes (accounting for traffic)

### **Disputes**

It is recognized that both EPS and DHS will act with the best interests of children in mind; however, since both parties are approaching this issue from different perspectives, disputes will naturally sometimes occur. In the event of a dispute regarding the transportation of a child in foster care the following will be followed:

- The district will provide transportation until such time as the dispute is resolved ES ESEA1112(c)(5)(B)(i)
- The district policy regarding McKinney-Vento disputes will be followed (Policy 4004(IV)(c)).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ EPS Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

Male:  Female:

School of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Last	First	Middle
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Pick-up Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Street	City	Zip
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\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information (if necessary)

Drop-off Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

(If different)	Street	City	Zip
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Responsible Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation Needed (Check One): AM Only PM Only AM-PM

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Distance from Residence to School of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_ miles Est. Commute (One-Way): \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

Closest EPS Bus Stop:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

If applicable, what is the additional cost of transport for this child? \$\_\_\_\_\_ / month.

For Foster Care Students

Will transportation be supplemented by DHS? (Check One): Yes No

If yes, amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

EPS Coordinator of Educational Services