



Edmond Public Schools Foster Care Plan

Under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1112(c)(5)(B), all local education agencies (LEAs) must have a foster care plan developed and disseminated to all stakeholders. The school district must collaborate with the Child Welfare Agency and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies to implement Title I educational stability provisions. The Foster Care Plan for Edmond Public Schools is as follows:

LEA Point of Contact and Responsibilities:

The Educational Services Coordinator will be the Foster Care Point of Contact for Edmond Public Schools. This person will work in the best interest of the child to ensure that all educational requirements are being met including:

- Coordinate with the child welfare agency contact to implement Title I provisions
- Work with the child welfare agency and foster parents to make the best interest determination
- Facilitate the transfer of records and immediate enrollment
- Facilitate data sharing with the child welfare agency, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols
- Ensure local transportation is arranged
- Manage best interest determinations and transportation cost disputes
- Provide professional development and training to school staff on the Title I provisions and educational needs of children in foster care, as needed

Decision Making Process:

The Educational Services Coordinator will work with the Child Welfare Agency to determine if the school of origin or the school of the attendance area in which the student resides will be the best placement. In the event of a disagreement regarding the school placement of a child in foster care Edmond Public Schools will make the final decision. In the event of a dispute, the district's dispute resolution policy will take effect.

The Type of Documentation or Records That Should Be Shared Between Parties:

Foster care parents, social workers, or other legal guardians will be allowed to immediately enroll children in foster care in Edmond Public Schools without having the necessary documents (birth certificate, shot records, academic records, etc.). Foster care provider residency will determine the appropriate site to enroll. The receiving district will contact the school district of origin for the records and make the adaptations as needed.

Edmond Public Schools will share education records with the child welfare agency that are allowed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other state privacy laws.

Collaborative Structure, Such As Regularly Scheduled Meetings, In Which Relevant Individuals Can Participate In a Particular Process:

The foster care team, which may include the principal, assistant principal, school counselor, school psychologist, classroom teacher and foster parent will meet as needed to discuss the progress of the child in foster care and will document the results of the meetings. All decisions will be made utilizing a collaborative team approach to determine what is in the best interest of the child.

The Best Interest Determination Document Regarding the Child's School Placement:

Edmond Public Schools will use the following sample form in making a best interest determination for each child in foster care, unless one is provided by the Child Welfare Agency.



Edmond Public Schools
Foster Care Best Interest Determination Form

Date:	Child's Name:	DOB:
Student ID:	Age:	Grade:
School of Origin:	School of Attendance Area:	Current District:

Determining Factors:

Will the school better meet the relational needs of the child? Yes No

Describe relationship connections at school: _____

Does the school meet the academic needs and challenges of the child? Yes No

Circle all that apply: IEP/504 Plan EL Services Gifted Program Career Tech

Does the school meet the safety needs of the child? Yes No

Is the length of travel to and from school age-appropriate and non-detrimental? Yes No

Travel arrangements: _____

Was the school child's preference considered? Yes No

Child's school preference: _____

Strategies for successful transition if the child is being moved to another school:

Please list all team members and role:

Team Member Name	Role

Please attach supporting documentation such as:

- Report card or progress reports
- Attendance data
- IEP/504 documents
- Court orders
- Other information deemed necessary

Transportation Procedures:

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.

Responsibilities and costs related to student transportation:

Additional costs for transportation (whether in-district or out-of-district) will be financed through one of the following methods:

- 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.

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)

**EPS Public Schools
Foster Care Transportation Request**

Date: _____ EPS Student ID: _____ D.O.B. _____ Male: Female:

School of Attendance: _____ Grade: _____ School Year: _____

Legal Full Name:

Last

First

Middle

Pick-up Address:

Street

City

Zip

Additional Information (if necessary)

Drop-off Address:

(If different)

Street

City

Zip

Responsible Adult Name: _____ Phone #: _____

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

Student is (Check One): In Foster Care

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: \$ _____

Please return this form to Andrea Wheeler at andrea.wheeler@edmondschools.net or fax to 405-330-3380. Thank you.

Clear, written policies that will remove barriers to immediate enrollment and record transfers for children in foster care:

Edmond Public Schools will eliminate any barriers to enrollment and/or transfer of educational records for children in foster care as reflected in this plan.