

## **STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE**

### **Child Welfare Education Liaison**

The Child Welfare Education Liaison (liaison) will be appointed by the superintendent on or before August 15 of each year. The Child Welfare Education Liaison will work to identify students placed in foster care and facilitate each student's access to and success in school. On or before the pupil enrollment count day, the liaison will report the number of students in foster care enrolled in the Thompson School District (TSD) to the Colorado Department of Education.

The liaison collaborates with child placement agencies, county departments, the state department, and schools to ensure proper school placement, transfer and enrollment of foster children. The liaisons work with all parties to ensure a foster child remains in an educational situation that promotes stability, assists in making transportation arrangements, and provides information and gives referrals on services and opportunities. The liaison ensures that the enrolling school will immediately contact the school last attended by the child in foster care to obtain relevant academic and other records.

The district's child welfare education liaison is also designated to receive notice of a student who is transitioning to public school from a state-licensed day treatment facility, facility school or hospital providing inpatient acute care or psychiatric services and who has been determined by that facility, facility school, hospital, or a court to be a risk to himself or herself or the community within the 12 months prior to the proposed transfer to a public school. Under certain circumstances, the child welfare education liaison may receive an invitation to participate in the development of a transition plan for such student.

### **Enrollment Determinations**

In making enrollment determinations, the child welfare education liaison shall assist appropriate county department of human services representatives in making "best interest of the child" education decisions, particularly the determination of whether or not it is in the best interest of the student in foster care to remain in his/her school of origin or to enroll in a new school.

### **Transfer of Education Records**

If a student in foster care transfers to another school, the sending district shall transfer the student's education information and records to the receiving school as soon as possible but not to exceed five school days after receiving a transfer request.

The sending district may release the student's education information and records to an employee of the county department of human services for the sole purpose of transferring the education information and records to the student's new school. Such release shall be in accordance with applicable state and federal law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

If the request for a records transfer involves a student who is receiving special education services pursuant to an individualized education plan, the sending district shall notify its special education director of the records request.

The sending district shall not delay the transfer of education information and records of a student in foster care for any reason, including but not limited to the existence of any unpaid fines or fees.

### **Enrollment in a New School**

If it is determined that it is not in the student's best interests to remain in his/her school of origin and unless otherwise permitted by state law to deny enrollment, the district or new school shall immediately enroll a student in foster care in the new school, regardless of whether:

- the district or school has received the student's education records or certificate of immunization;
- the student can comply with any requirements pertaining to the use of school uniforms or other clothing restrictions; or
- the student can comply with any other pre-enrollment restrictions or requirements imposed by the district or new school.

If the district or new school enrolls a student in foster care without receiving the student's certificate of immunization, the district or school shall notify the applicable county department of human services that, unless the district or school receives the student's certificate of immunization or a written authorization for administration of immunizations within 14 days after the student enrolls, the student in foster care shall be suspended until such time as the district or school receives the certificate of immunization or authorization.

### **Transportation**

When the district is notified that a student in foster care needs, or may need, transportation to a district school, the child welfare education liaison will take steps to establish an individualized plan that addresses how transportation to maintain the student in his/her school of origin will be arranged, provided and funded for the duration of time that the student in foster care is attending his/her school of origin.

In establishing such a plan, the child welfare education liaison and other district staff shall follow any existing transportation procedures, systems-level plan or agreement that the district, acting in collaboration with one or more relevant departments of human services, has adopted or otherwise expressly agreed to implement for the cost-effective transportation of the student.

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