

## FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan

**Local Educational Agency (LEA)** Taliaferro

**Superintendent Name** Allen Fort

**Mailing Address** 557 Broad Street

**Physical Address (if different from above)** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** Crawfordville **Zip** 30631

**Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) Name** Andreana Jones **POC Email** ajones@talialferro.k12.ga.us

**POC Mailing Address** 557 Broad Street

**City** Crawfordville **Zip** 30631

**POC Telephone** 706-456-2575 ext.305 **POC Fax** 706-456-2689

Allen B Fort

Superintendent Signature

8/20/2018

Date

Allen B Fort

Print Name of Superintendent

## FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan- Taliaferro County

**NOTE:** In order to answer the questions below, refer to the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care.

### I. Foster Care Transportation Plan: PLANNING

#### A. The LEA's role is to have a transportation plan in place for children in foster care to their school of origin. Describe your plan to:

*Coordinate transportation with the local child welfare agency.*

The Taliaferro County School System (TCSS) identified point of contact (POC) will be notified directly by foster parents, DFCS case workers, Court Appointed Special Advocates or Education Support Monitors (ESM), within the Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) unit of DFCS for the purpose of providing transportation for a child in foster care to his or her school of origin. When transportation of the foster child is an issue, the above-mentioned parties will collaborate to develop a transportation plan that meets the needs of the individual child. "No cost plans" will be explored first, and may include the following:

1. Foster parent transports child to school of origin (within 25 miles round trip);
2. Foster parent transports child to nearest school transportation pick up location; or
3. LEA will follow existing plan for transporting children with disabilities if the foster child is disabled.

If the plan for transportation is for the foster parent to transport the child to the nearest school transportation pick up location, POC will notify the TCSS Transportation Director to coordinate bus transportation for the student. The director of transportation or assistant director of transportation will contact the foster parents, DFCS case worker, or Court Appointed Special Advocate for transportation arrangements, to include confirmation of student's home address, bus driver's name and route number, and approximate time for student pick-up in the mornings and drop-off in the afternoons. The POC will also notify the TCSS Federal Program Director, of each TCSS student in foster care in need of transportation to his/her school of origin (when the POC is not also the FP Director).

*Implement steps to be taken if additional costs are incurred.*

In the event the transportation options listed above are not feasible and additional costs are incurred, the LEA and DFCS will share transportation costs: DFCS will assume the responsibility for extraordinary costs, such as contracting with transportation companies, and the LEA will assume the responsibility for costs associated with re-routing LEA transportation for the child in foster care. The POC will collaborate with the foster parents, DFCS Case Manager, Education Support Monitor, and/or Court Appointed Special Advocate to explore the following options:

1. The LEA will re-route transportation to pick child up at nearest bus stop or at foster home (as determined by the TCSS Transportation Department) and transport child directly to school of origin;
2. The LEA will re-route transportation to pick child up at agreed-upon location at



## FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan- Taliaferro County

- county line in the event child is living with foster parents in a neighboring county;
3. DFCS will arrange for payment to foster parent for transportation farther than 25 miles round trip; or
  4. DFCS will utilize existing contracts with transportation companies to provide transportation to child's school of origin or to agreed-upon location at county line when child is living in a neighboring county.

Note: There is only one consolidated K-12 school within the LEA district. Students needing transport to a school of origin would be transported to schools in a neighboring county. If transportation to a neighboring district is required, the LEA POC will collaborate with the neighboring district POC to arrange transportation for LEA students in foster care.

*Execute the local dispute resolution process.*

The LEA and DFCS will work cooperatively to develop transportation plans for children in foster care to ensure the educational stability of children enrolled in the school system. In the event of a dispute, the LEA and DFCS will defer to the LEA Federal Programs Director and the DFCS County Director for final determination of the resolution. The LEA will continue to collaborate with foster parents, DFCS Case Manager, Education Support Monitor, and/or Court Appointed Special Advocate to provide and arrange for adequate and appropriate transportation during the dispute resolution process.

### **B. What steps should an LEA and local child welfare agency take to ensure that transportation is provided immediately, even if they face difficulty reaching agreement on how to pay for additional transportation costs?**

The LEA and DFCS will work cooperatively to ensure that transportation is not a barrier to the educational stability of children in foster care. Partners will follow the steps outlined below if they face difficulty reaching an agreement on how to pay for additional transportation costs:

1. As outlined in Section A, it is pre-determined that the LEA will assume financial responsibility for costs incurred as the result of the re-routing of school busses while DFCS will assume financial responsibility for costs associated with reimbursing foster parents for travel or the cost of contracting with local transportation companies.
2. Initial transportation planning will occur at the lowest level between the TCSS POC and assigned DFCS Case Manager, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Education Support Monitor, and foster parents. Disputes will be forwarded to the LEA Federal Program Director and DFCS County Director for resolution.
3. Final determination of how to pay for additional transportation costs will be made by the LEA Transportation Director and Superintendent of Schools.
4. The foster child's daily attendance will not be impacted by transportation disputes between the LEA and DFCS. The LEA will provide or arrange for adequate and appropriate transportation to and from the child's school of origin during the dispute resolution process.

### **C. The LEA must designate a Foster Care Point of Contact that coordinates with the local**



## FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan- Taliaferro County

**child welfare agency. Describe the point of contact's role and responsibilities.**

Andreana Jones, the TCSS Director for Federal Programs/Student Services, is the Foster Care Point of Contact for the Taliaferro County School System. The POC will contact the TCSS Transportation Director immediately when foster parents, a DFCS case worker, a Court Appointed Special Advocate or Education Support Monitor (ESM), within the EPAC unit of DFCS contacts her for a request for transportation of a Taliaferro County School System student in foster care. The point of contact will also collaborate with parties involved to ensure transportation needs for children in foster care are met in a timely manner.

### II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS

**A. If a child is placed within the LEA's school attendance area and projected transportation costs are negligible, should transportation be provided without supplemental assistance from the local child welfare agency?**

YES

**If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the LEA will provide transportation to the school of origin if:** The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.

Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs.

In the event that additional transportation costs are unavoidable, the LEA and DFCS will share transportation costs. The DFCS will assume financial responsibility for extraordinary costs such as contracting with transportation companies or paying foster parents to transport farther than 25 miles. The LEA will assume financial responsibility for costs associated with re-routing LEA transportation.

**B. All LEA's must meet the requirement to provide transportation for children who are in foster care to their schools of origin (Similar to the McKinney-Vento requirement for students experiencing homelessness).**

Does your LEA currently provide transportation services? YES

Taliaferro County School System provides bus transportation for students experiencing homelessness. When the POC is notified that a Taliaferro County School System student in foster care is in need of bus transportation to his/her school of origin, he/she will immediately notify the TCSS Transportation Director to make arrangements for bus transportation. This procedure is similar to the arrangements made for students experiencing homelessness. Currently, the Federal Programs Director contacts the Transportation Department to make bus arrangements for students receiving McKinney-Vento services.

## ASSURANCES

By checking the box beside each statement and by affixing my signature to these Assurances, I certify that I have read each and agree to be held accountable for the content of each of the following statements:

- ☒ The LEA will collaborate with state or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of time in foster care.
- ☒ The LEA ensures that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin promptly receive such transportation in a cost-effective manner.
- ☒ The LEA ensures that children in foster care remain in the school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved.
- ☒ The LEA will collaborate with State or local child welfare agency to provide transportation if a child is placed in foster care placement across district, county, or State lines.
- ☒ In accordance to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Fostering Connections Act, the LEA will continue to provide transportation to children that exited foster care for the remainder of the school year, if it is in the best interest of the student.

I am authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of the applicant. My signature certifies that all information included in the application is accurate. I understand that all information submitted is subject to verification.

Taliaferro

LEA Name

Allen B Fort

Printed Name of Superintendent

Allen B Fort

Signature of Superintendent

(Please sign in blue ink only)

Superintendent

Title

8/30/18

Date