

FY26 Foster Care Transportation Plan

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Camden County Schools

Superintendent Name Dr. Tracolya Green

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Physical Address (if different from above) _____

City Kingsland **Zip** 31548

Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) Name 311 South East Street **POC Email** Shelia.Dease-Dinkins@dhs.ga.gov

POC Mailing Address 721 Charles Gilman Jr. Ave

City Kingsland **Zip** 31548

POC Telephone 912-510-8966 **POC Fax** 877-390-8547

Superintendent Signature

[Click here to enter a date.](#)
Date

Print Name of Superintendent

FY26 Foster Care Transportation Plan

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is required to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)). In coordination with state and tribal child welfare agencies, GaDOE must ensure that its LEAs implement the Title I educational stability requirements for children in foster care, including ensuring that:

- A child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in that child's best interest;
- If it is not in the child's best interest to stay in his or her school of origin, the child is immediately enrolled in the new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment; and,
- That the new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin to obtain relevant academic and other records (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)-(iii)). In fulfilling this role, the SEA should coordinate with the state or tribal child welfare agency to develop and disseminate uniform guidelines for implementing the Title I educational stability provisions. Developing uniform statewide policies and procedures for ensuring educational stability for children in foster care, as many States have already done under the Fostering Connections Act, will facilitate successful implementation at the local level. This is particularly important given the shared agency responsibility for educational stability under Title I and the Fostering Connections Act, and because a single LEA or local child welfare agency will likely have to collaborate with multiple partner agencies in implementing these provisions.

Additionally, the SEA must conduct regular monitoring and oversight to guarantee appropriate implementation of these provisions at the local level. (See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. § 76.770).

On the state level, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), which houses the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) periodically sends a list of children in foster care that are flagged in GaDOE's student information system for information sharing and reporting purposes. On the local level, LEAs are now able to retrieve a list of children in foster care to better identify and provide services. LEAs are to continue collaborating with their local child welfare agencies and may periodically receive information directly from foster parents, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), DFCS case workers, or Education Support Monitors (ESM), within the Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) unit of DFCS. Once identified, LEAs must implement its plan to ensure educational stability for children in care. For the best interest of the children in care, LEAs should follow all mandated regulations under FERPA and keep the status of these children confidential.

As a result, GaDOE is requiring all LEAs, including virtual schools and charter schools that function as an LEA, to complete a Foster Care Transportation Plan. The plan should be completed in addition to the development and implementation of written transportation procedures and the identification of a Foster Care Point of Contact. Please complete this plan and return it by:

Monday, June 30, 2025

Instructions for submission:

- After the LEA superintendent signs the assurances, scan the entire document as a PDF and save it as the "FY26 Foster Care Transportation Plan".
- Upload the signed PDF version of the document to the CLIP online portal via the Consolidated Application for FY26.

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NOTE: In order to answer the questions below, refer to the [Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability and Success for Students 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:

1. Coordinate transportation with the local child welfare agency.
2. Implement steps to be taken if additional costs are incurred.
3. Execute the local dispute resolution process.

Include the roles of key players (e.g. LEA Foster Care Point of Contact, LEA Superintendent, LEA Federal Program Director, EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor, Case Worker, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Juvenile Court representative, etc.) *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

- Foster parent transport: The foster parent will transport the child to their school of origin if the round trip is 25 miles or less.
- Transportation to pick-up location: The foster parent will transport the child to the nearest designated school transportation pick-up location.
- LEA county line pick-up: If the child is placed in a neighboring county, the Local Education Agency (LEA) will pick up the child at an agreed-upon point at the county line.
- LEA direct transport: The LEA will pick up the child at the nearest bus stop or the foster home and transport them to their school of origin.

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? *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

Financial Responsibilities

- Camden County Schools will cover costs associated with rerouting school buses.
- The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) will be responsible for reimbursing foster parents for travel expenses or the cost of contracting with local transportation companies.

Dispute Resolution Process

1. Initial planning and problem-solving will begin at the lowest practical level between CCS and DFCS.
2. Unresolved disputes will be escalated to the CCS' Student Services Director and the DFCS Custody County Director (or their designee) for resolution.
3. CCS Superintendent will make the final determination regarding the payment of any additional transportation costs.

Ensuring Daily Attendance

Transportation disputes between the CCS and DFCS will not impact a child's daily attendance. During any dispute resolution process, CCS will provide or arrange for transportation to and from the child's school of origin.

C. The LEA must designate a Foster Care Point of Contact that coordinates with the local child welfare agency. Describe the point of contact's role and responsibilities. *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

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When a request for transportation of a student in foster care is made by a foster parent, a DFCS (Department of Family and Children Services) case manager or an Education Support Monitor from DFCS's Educational Programming, Assessment, and Consultation (EPAC) unit, the Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) will take immediate action.

The POC will promptly contact the CCS Transportation Director. The POC is responsible for ongoing communication and collaboration with DFCS Case Mgr. This collaboration ensures the seamless implementation of ESSA law, including:

- Thoughtful best interest determinations;
- Appropriate and timely transportation plans;
- Immediate enrollment and records transfer

Beyond transportation logistics, the POC will also play a key role in:

- Facilitating training;
- Monitoring attendance and progress;
- Ensuring confidentiality

This streamlined communication and collaboration process aims to provide stable and consistent education support for children in foster care.

II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS

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

	YES	NO	N/A
1. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation.	No		
2. The LEA agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation.	No		
3. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.	Yes		

Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs. *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

If extra transportation costs for foster children are unavoidable, CCS and the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) will share these expenses.

Specifically, DFCS will be financially responsible for additional costs such as:

- Contracting with external transportation companies.
- Reimbursing foster parents for travel that exceeds the initial 25-mile round trip.

Conversely, the CCS will assume financial responsibility for costs associated with rerouting existing school transportation,

B. All LEAs 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? If no, describe your plan to meet this mandate.

Choose an item.

Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

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Camden County Schools provides services to students placed in foster homes. The foster home guardian or DFACS will inform the school counselor and/or social worker of the need, and services are then coordinated with the school, the transportation department, and the Federal Programs Director.

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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.

LEA Name

Printed Name of Superintendent

Title

Signature of Superintendent
(Please sign in blue ink only)

Date