



# **FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS**

## **EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)**

Division of Funding & Disbursements

Illinois State Board of Education

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## TRANSPORTATION

LEAs must provide assurances that they will collaborate with State or local Child Welfare Agencies to:

- Develop and implement clear written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care
- Procedures must ensure that children will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner in accordance with the Fostering Connections Act
- Ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin



## TRANSPORTATION

Districts and child welfare agencies should work together to agree on costs

- Transportation procedures should include a dispute resolution process if parties cannot come to agreement
- ISBE and DCFS has developed uniform statewide guidelines and procedures via IWAS Foster Care Transportation System
- A child must remain in his or her school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved



## TRANSPORTATION

- The LEA must ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to their school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost effective manner and in accordance with the child welfare agency's authority to use child welfare funding for school of origin transportation.
- **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:
  - Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, LEAs that incur additional transportation costs for transporting a DCFS Foster Care student to their school of origin will be reimbursed 50% of their actual costs by DCFS. The other 50% is claimable as Regular Transportation expenditures.



## TRANSPORTATION

Other funding options:

- **Title I** (but funds reserved for comparable services for homeless children & youth may not be used for transportation);
- **Title IV-E** of the Social Security Act if the student is eligible
- **IDEA funds**, If the student has an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** that includes provisions for specialized transportation, transportation must be provided for prekindergarten–Grade 12 special education students enrolled for the regular and/or summer terms who require special transportation as defined in their IEP and approved as a related service on the IEP Student Tracking and Reporting System (I-Star). DCFS special education youth-in-care transportation costs are reimbursed at 100% and claimed separately via the Special Education Individual Orphanage claim.
- **State special education transportation funds**, if the student has an IEP
- **Local funds**



## Transportation Options

The following low-cost / no-cost options should be considered when developing the transportation procedures:

- Pre-existing transportation routes
- New transportation route
- Route-to-route hand-offs
- District-to-district hand-offs
- Eligibility of student for transportation through other services such as but not limited to, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Alternative not directly provided by the district / school such as:
  - Contracted services – taxis, student transport companies, etc. \*
  - Public transportation such as city buses, rail, etc.
  - Carpools \*
  - School / District staff \*
  - Options presented by DCFS outside of those provided by the district / school, such as reimbursing the foster parents for transportation cost, or including transportation in contracts with licensed child placing agencies or group homes

**\*NOTE: A valid school bus driver permit is REQUIRED for these options!**

**IMPORTANT: All drivers transporting students (other than parents or legal guardians transporting their own students) in First Division vehicles MUST possess a valid school bus driver permit per Section 6-104(d) of the Illinois Vehicle Code. THIS INCLUDES TAXI CABS DRIVERS.**

**REMINDER: A Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB) can NEVER be used to transport home-to-school or school-to-home [625 ILCS 5/1-148.3a-5]**



# Transportation Vehicle Guidance

Below are links to the types of vehicles allowable for student transportation and the requirement for the driver.

Vehicle Guidance:

- [https://www.isbe.net/Documents/school\\_vehicle\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/school_vehicle_guidance.pdf)

Vehicle Use Summary:

- [https://www.isbe.net/Documents/vehicle\\_use\\_summary.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/vehicle_use_summary.pdf)

Visual Vehicle Use Guide:

- <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Visual-Vehicle-Use-Guide-12-20-2017.pdf>