

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE 411.3 - ENSURING THE EDUCATIONAL STABILITY OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE (FOSTER CARE)

The District's point of contact for the education of children in foster care will also:

- A. Coordinate with the points of contact and other appropriate representatives of child welfare agencies and of other educational agencies on the implementation of the Title I provisions related to ensuring the educational stability of children in foster care.
- B. Assist appropriate child welfare agency representatives in making "best interest of the child" education decisions, including particularly the determination of whether or not it is in a child's best interest to remain in his/her school of origin or to enroll in a new school. As examples, the District's point of contact may (a) be involved in defining a process for making such decisions; (b) coordinate input from, or other participation by, other District staff; and (c) make, or assist in making, the District's evaluation of the available and relevant information in a specific case. The determination of a child's best interest in relation to school enrollment involves giving consideration to all factors relating to a child's best interest, including but not limited to the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity of the child's placement to the school(s).
- C. Facilitate the continued enrollment of a child in foster care in his/her school of origin; or, if remaining in the school of origin is determined not to be in the child's best interest, facilitate the child's immediate enrollment in a new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.
- D. Request, facilitate, and confirm, as applicable, the timely transfer of student records any time a child in foster care will be enrolling in a school (within or outside of the District) other than the school the child is currently attending (or most recently attended).
- E. Coordinate the implementation of local transportation procedures related to children in foster care and the resolution of any transportation cost disputes, in consultation with the Director of Business Services, and in accordance with established procedures.
- F. Facilitate the sharing of student record information with child welfare agency personnel in a manner that is consistent with applicable legal requirements, any applicable record sharing agreements, and established District policies and procedures regarding the maintenance and confidentiality of student records.

- G. Have shared responsibility for ensuring that children in foster care attending schools in the District have access to and receive the educational services and supports and specialized programming for which they are eligible.
- H. Assist, as needed, with addressing concerns that may arise regarding the regular school attendance of a child in foster care.
- I. Collaborate with other District staff and, if appropriate, with child welfare agency representatives, to assist children in foster care with their educational transitions (e.g., from early childhood education to elementary school, elementary school to middle school/junior high school, middle/junior high school to high school, and from high school to post-secondary options).
- J. For a child in foster care who is a high school student and who is newly enrolled in high school in the District, ensure that the child meets with a high school guidance counselor to review previous course work and the awarding of credit for such course work, review credits needed for graduation, and review the options available to the child for meeting the graduation requirements.
- K. Coordinate professional development activities and resources and serve as a local resource, as needed, for other District staff related to the Title I provisions and the educational needs of children in foster care.
- L. Working with administrators and other District staff as needed, coordinate the collection and appropriate reporting of any data that is needed to meet the established legal requirements related to children in foster in care.

ADOPTION DATE: May 13, 2019

REVISION DATE(S):

REVIEW DATE(S): December 6, 2023

CROSS-REFERENCE: Policy 411.3 Ensuring the Educational Stability of Children in Out-of-Home Care (Foster Care)

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes Section 48.38(4), Section 48.383, Section 48.64(1r), Section 48.78, Section 115.298(1)(b), Section 118.125(2)(q), Section 938.78; Federal Laws Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title IV of the Social Security Act