

**Alabama Education Stability for Foster Students  
LEA Plan Template**

**LEA Student in Foster Care Overview**

Number of Students in Foster Care SY 2015-2016 (Enrolled for Previous School Year):

Number of Students in Foster Care SY 2016-2017 (Currently Enrolled):

List Agencies in Collaboration:

Albertville City Schools, Arab City Schools, Boaz City Schools, Guntersville City Schools, Marshall County Schools and the Marshall County Department of Human Resources

Policy Review and Revision (Describe how each agency in collaboration reviewed policies and the revisions made to policies as a result of reviews.)

Each participating agency reviewed enrollment and transportation policies/procedures currently in place. Enrollment policies/procedures have been amended to include "CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE" to the "immediate enroll" list of student groups. Each agency also amended their policies/procedures for "DISPUTE RESOLUTION" to contain information needed for CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE. A transportation plan for students in foster care was developed jointly by the participating agencies. Each agency will be responsible for transporting students to their attendance boundary if it is determined to be in the child's best interest to remain in their school of origin. The district in which the school of origin is located will transport the child from the attendance boundary to the school. Should the school of origin not be in a neighboring school district, DHR will provide transportation. Forms are attached for determining the child's best interest, to be completed with input from DHR.

Describe Collaboration and Coordination with Agencies (Include a list of team members, positions, signatures, and agencies.):

Sign in sheet attached that includes participating agency representatives. A planning meeting was held on January 30, 2017 at the Marshall County Department of Human Resource Office.

LEA(s) Point(s) of Contact:

Tim Tidmore-Albertville City Schools, Stacie Pace-Arab City Schools, Margaret Mastin-Boaz City Schools, Lou Ann Patton-Guntersville City Schools, Paige Raney-Marshall County Schools

DHR(s) Point(s) of Contact:

Suzanne Ray-Marshall County DHR

2 C. F. R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. §76.770; ESSA SECTION 1111(1)(e) - LEAs must implement the Title I educational stability requirements of 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.

Describe procedures for implementing the above provisions.

Enrollment Policies have been revised to include "STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE" in the list of "immediately enrolled" students. Revised policies/procedures can be found in the policy book for each school system.

ESSA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) – A description of how the LEA in collaboration with the local child welfare agency will ensure that in determining whether it is in the child's best interest to remain in his or her school or origin, and LEA takes into consideration all factors relating to a child's best interest.

Description of how the LEA will work with child welfare agencies to develop a clear policy or protocol on how to make best interest determinations including making every effort to gather meaningful input from relevant parties, in addition to required child welfare and school representatives, in deciding what school placement is in a child's best interest. Include a description of protocols in this description.

Forms to be used for BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION are attached to this plan and can be found in the office of the Foster Care Contact in each school system.

ESSA Section 1112(c)(5)(B) Description of transportation protocols and procedures to include how additional costs for transportation will be calculated and funded as well as a policy for LEAs to resolve best interest disputes and interagency disputes related to transportation costs. Description must include how transportation and transportation costs will be monitored. (Include LEA and welfare responsibilities for providing transportation.)

Description of Dispute Resolution Policy

Transportation procedures are attached to this plan and can be found in the office of the Foster Care Contact in each school system.

ESSA Section 111(g)(1)(E)(ii)-(iii) Describe protocol for a child in foster care to be immediately enrolled in a new school.

Upon initial enrollment, students identified as being in foster care will be immediately enrolled, even if enrollment documents are not presented, and the Foster Care Contact will schedule a "best interest determination" meeting with all necessary parties involved. This meeting may include a phone conference if all parties cannot meet within 24 hours.

