

The following was adopted by the Board of Education on December 19, 2016-17, as an addition/revision to the 2016-17 Student Handbook. The purpose for this change is to address possible educational and transportation needs of students in foster care, as well as an effort to be in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):

8.21 Educational Stability of Foster Care Students under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Children in foster care have a higher mobility rate than their peers. School instability can negatively impact students in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, academic achievement. The District will work to:

1. “Ensure that a child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined not to be in the child’s best interest; and
2. Develop in partnership, consistent with the SEA and local child welfare agencies, procedures that ensure that transportation is provided, arranged, and funded for students in foster care.”

If it is not in the child’s best interest to remain in the school of origin, then District officials will try facilitate enrollment in the new school without delay.

The District’s foster care point of contact is the guidance counselor, Victoria Whittinghill. Upon notification of a student being placed in foster care or being brought to the District to enroll, District officials will work collaboratively with other agencies for what is in the best interest of the child.