

Administrative Guidance for Foster Care Placement

To the extent practical and as required by law, the Freedom School District will work with foster students, their families and the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to provide educational stability. With the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), stability for students in foster care is a priority. Both the New Hampshire Departments of Education and Health and Human Services have developed state guidance to help ensure the effective implementation of the new provisions under ESSA. Based on this guidance, the Freedom School District has prepared this document as part of our Title I plan.

- ❑ The school principal, acting as the point of contact, will coordinate services for foster students.
- ❑ Foster students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin, unless it is in their best interest to change schools. If it is not in the child's best interest to remain at the school of origin, the child must be immediately enrolled in the new school, even if the required documents are not available. All requirements for enrollment records will be waived to ensure a smooth transition.
- ❑ Per the joint guidance: within 5 days of court-ordered school joinder, DCYF will complete and send to the sending and receiving school districts the *Notice to School District of Residential Placement Change*.
- ❑ Per the joint guidance: The team (the school districts, parents, foster parents, DCYF, guidance counselor, and as warranted the student's IEP Team), will complete the *Best Interest Determination Form*. The determination will guide whether transportation arrangements will be required if the child will remain in the school of origin.
- ❑ If needed, the Freedom School District and DCYF will discuss what will be necessary to provide transportation for the child. If there are additional transportation costs above what is typically expended on a child's transportation in the district, the district of liability will make a reasonable effort to coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student. These could include foster parent transportation or cost-sharing between DCYF and the local school.
- ❑ The Freedom School district will provide disaggregated data on foster youth from STAR Assessments, DIBELS Assessments and Smarter Balanced (if age appropriate).
- ❑ Per the joint guidance: Any disputes will be addressed by the guidance from the New Hampshire Departments of Education and Health and Human Services.