

## Foster Care Transportation Policy & Procedures

ESPIRITU School Transportation Policy aims to provide safe and reliable transportation for all students, while also taking into account the unique needs of Foster Care students. The policy emphasizes the importance of following rules and regulations related to riding the school bus, and provides guidelines for disciplinary action in cases of inappropriate behavior. By prioritizing the needs of all students, this policy can help ensure that all students have access to the educational opportunities provided by the charter school.

### Foster Care Students

- a. The school district will provide transportation for Foster Care students who live outside the designated transportation zone.
- b. Transportation for Foster Care students will be arranged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the student's individual needs and circumstances.
- c. Foster Care students will be provided transportation to and from their school of origin, as required by law.
- d. The school district will work with the student and their foster family to determine the most appropriate transportation option.

Transportation for Foster Care students will be arranged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the student's individual needs, and circumstances to provide the most prompt and cost-effective solution. Below are transportation options that will be considered. The transportation options in the matrix below provide, in descending order, the most prompt and cost-effective methods.

Transportation Options	Description	Requirements	Funding Matrix
Walk	The student walks to and from school.	The student lives within one mile of proximity to the school.	N/A
Pick up / Drop Off	The student's guardian arranges transportation to and from school.	N/A	N/A
School Bus	School buses will pick up and drop off students at designated stops along established routes.	The student lives within proximity of one mile walking distance to a bus stop.	LEA to solely provide transportation

Public Transportation	Public transportation includes buses, trains, and other forms of transportation that are available to the general public.	The student lives in any proximity outside of bus boundaries.	Local Education Agency (LEA) will seek reimbursement from Child Welfare Agency (CWA)
Rideshare	Gift cards to a third party rideshare company such as Lyft and/or Uber to provide transportation services to and from school.	The student lives in any proximity outside of bus boundaries.	Local Education Agency (LEA) will seek reimbursement from Child Welfare Agency (CWA)
Third Party Transportation Shuttle	A third party that provides scheduled transportation via a shuttle bus to and from school.	The student lives in any proximity outside of bus boundaries.	Local Education Agency (LEA) will seek reimbursement from Child Welfare Agency (CWA)
Internal School Shuttle	An approved school employee or contractor will transport the student to and from school in an approved school vehicle.	The student lives in any proximity outside of bus boundaries. Provided before and during the BID process. This option is not available after the BID process.	Local Education Agency (LEA) agrees to share the cost with the Child Welfare Agency (CWA).

### **Transportation during the BID process**

\*Children in foster care must remain at their school of origin throughout the best interest determination (BID) process. Describe how the lea, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin during the bid process.

- Foster Care students will be provided transportation to and from their school of origin, as required by law during the BID process. The school Foster Care liaison will work with the Child Welfare Agency, the student, and their foster family to determine the most appropriate transportation option. Transportation options will be provided within 24 hours once the Foster Liaison identifies a need. During the BID process, the LEA will provide transportation options that include: walking, guardian drop off/pick up, school bus transportation, public transportation, rideshare gift cards, third-party transportation shuttles, and internal school shuttles. Transportation for Foster Care students will be arranged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the student's individual needs and circumstances. The transportation options will be evaluated in order of the most prompt and cost-effective methods as provided in the transportation matrix. Foster Care

students will have a priority for securing a seat on the bus. In the event the School Bus option is deemed the most appropriate option based on the transportation matrix, the Foster Care liaison will submit the transportation request via email to the Transportation Director to initiate a priority bus seat. The Transportation Director has the authority to approve the request to add the student to the current bus routes. The LEA will fund the transportation options based on the funding matrix. The Foster Care liaison will coordinate with the Finance department and the Family Center to coordinate and fund the following transportation options: public transportation, rideshare gift cards, third-party transportation shuttles, and internal school shuttles. Packets of student work/assignments or Google Classroom log-in accounts will be provided to support the student academically during this time.

### **Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care to their School of Origin**

\*Describe how the LEA, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin after the BID process.

- Foster Care students will be provided transportation to and from their school of origin, as required by law. The school Foster Care liaison will work with the Child Welfare Agency, the student, and their foster family to determine the most appropriate transportation option. Transportation options will be provided within 24 hours once the Foster Liaison identifies a need. After the BID process, the LEA will provide transportation options that include: walking, guardian drop off/pick up, school bus transportation, public transportation, rideshare gift cards, and third party transportation shuttles. Transportation for Foster Care students will be arranged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the student's individual needs and circumstances. The transportation options will be evaluated in order of the most prompt and cost-effective methods as provided in the transportation matrix. Foster Care students will have a priority for securing a seat on the bus. In the event the School Bus option is deemed the most appropriate option based on the transportation matrix, the Foster Care liaison will submit the transportation request via email to the Transportation Director to initiate a priority bus seat. The Transportation Director has the authority to approve the request to add the student to the current bus routes. The LEA will fund the transportation options based on the funding matrix. The Foster Care liaison will coordinate with the Finance department and the Family Center to coordinate and fund the following transportation options: public transportation, rideshare gift cards, third-party transportation shuttles, and internal school shuttles. Packets of student work/assignments or Google Classroom log-in accounts will be provided to support the student academically during this time.

### **Foster care transportation additional costs**

\*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to seek reimbursement from the CWA.

- The following transportation scenarios will trigger the LEA to seek reimbursement from the Child Welfare Agency (CWA): The LEA purchases passes for buses, trains, and other forms of transportation that are available to the general public. The LEA purchases gift cards to a third-party rideshare company such as Lyft and/or Uber to provide transportation services to and from school. The LEA purchases rides from a third party that provides scheduled transportation via a shuttle bus to and from school. The

transportation options are provided as an option when the student lives outside the proximity of one-mile walking distance of bus boundaries. The rationale to seek reimbursement is that these options are not currently provided by the LEA as a transportation method to the general student population. The Foster Liaison will submit receipts to the Finance Department, which will be responsible for processing and submitting reimbursement regardless of the dollar amount spent to the CWA following their policy and process guidelines.

\*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation.

- The following transportation scenario will trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation regardless of the number of dollars spent. The rationale to solely providing transportation is that these options are currently provided by the LEA as a transportation method to the general student population and the LEA is not incurring any additional costs. the student walks to and from school and the student lives within one mile of proximity to the school. The student's guardian arranges transportation to and from school regardless of their proximity to the school. School buses will pick up and drop off students at designated stops along established routes. school bus and the student lives within proximity of one mile walking distance to a bus stop.

\*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to agree to share the cost with the CWA.

- The following transportation scenario will trigger the LEA to agree to share the cost with the CWA Child Welfare Agency (CWA). An approved school employee or contractor will transport the student to and from school in an approved school vehicle and the student lives in any proximity outside of bus boundaries. Provided before and during the BID process. This option is not available after the BID process. The rationale to seek shared costs reimbursement is that this option is not currently provided by the LEA as a transportation method to the general student population. The LEA would pay for the personnel and costs incurred for the vehicle. The LEA would seek reimbursement only for gas costs incurred. The Foster Liaison will submit receipts to the Finance Department, which will be responsible for processing and submitting reimbursement regardless of the dollar amount spent to the CWA following their policy and process guidelines.