Series: Education

Policy Name: **ESSA Determination Staffing**

Policy Number: 1506

Origination Date: 11/16/16 Revision Date:

Authority: Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008); Every Student Succeeds Act (2015)

**Procedure**

To make school stability a reality for children in out of home care, some children will need transportation to the school they are attending when they are moved to a placement in a new school district or attendance area, unless it is not in the child’s best interest to do so. It is the procedure of Kids Central to ensure Kids Central, the Department of Children and Families, local public school system, and the case management agencies work collaboratively to ensure all children in out of home care school transportation needs are met.

1. **General Information:**
2. The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 defines foster care as “24 hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility.” This includes children in foster family homes, shelter, relatives, non-relatives, group homes, and residential facilities.
3. Children in foster care should remain in their schools of origin under Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, unless it is determine to not be in their best interest at the ESSA staffing or conference call. Until the ESSA staffing or conference call is held, the child will continue to be transported to the school of origin by the case management agency, Department of Children and Families, GAL, or guardian.
4. Each Case Management agency and DCF Child Protective Investigation County will send a removal and placement tracking form to the Kids Central Education Department via email at Education@kidscentralinc.org within 12 hours of a removal or placement move and no later than 4pm of a business day.
5. A staffing or conference call will be facilitated by Kids Central Education Program within 48 business hours being notified of a child’s removal into foster care or a change of placement to determine if it is in the child’s best interest to remain in the school of origin. The following people have the opportunity to participate in ESSA Staffing: the child’s parents, GAL, school district point of contact, designee of school of origin, designee of potential school change, Case Manager, Child Protective Investigator, foster parent and or guardian, and any other person deemed essential to the child’s team.
6. If it is determined the child stays in the same school or a new school, transportation will be established on the ESSA staffing. The local school district will provide or arrange transportation for the child to attend the school determined at the ESSA staffing or conference call. Until transportation arrangements can be made, the case management agency, DCF Child Protective Investigator, or guardian will make transportation arrangements to ensure the child continues to attend the school of origin at time of removal.
7. The responsibility of the cost of transportation to the child’s school will be determined on a case by case basis with input from the school districts.

**Approved By:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

John Cooper Date