

## **Best Interest Determination (ESSA) School of Origin Input & Transportation Procedures For Students in Foster and Out of Home Care**

**Purpose:** On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), a 1965 federal law governing education last reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act in 2002. Among its provisions, the law now requires states to ensure protections for vulnerable youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. These include school stability and transportation, mandatory data reporting, and agency collaboration.

1. Student removed from home to a new placement (Foster Care) outside of their original school zone. Brevard Family Partnership Point of Contacts (POC's) will take the lead on ESSA Process.
2. Jessica Ayala or Christine Williams-Kelly, Brevard Family Partnership POC's, will contact Foster Care Designee to complete the School of Origin Input Form within 2 work days and return along with grade and attendance record.
3. Case Manager (Family Allies) will complete the School Stability Checklist, with input from all stakeholders, and return within 2 work days.
4. BFP with schedule Conference call with all Stakeholders within 3 work days, to collaborate and complete the Best Interest Determination. Transportation will be invited to participate in conferences that could result in transport that would exceed a 20 minute car drive (equal to approximately 45 minute bus drive that crosses multiple school boundaries). Contacts: Bill Crane and Terri McGowen. \*If transportation cannot attend, conference will need to be rescheduled. Dispute Resolution: BFP is considered the final decision maker in making the best interest determination.
5. The Best Interest Determination will be sent to all Stakeholders. Please keep a copy of all forms for student file. *\*If the determination is for the student to transition to a new school, please provide the new school (Foster Care Designee) with any pertinent information, prior to the student's arrival, in order to assist this student with a smooth transition.*
6. *If recommendation is for student to remain at the School of Origin, **BFP POC's will send the Transportation Request to [BusRouters@Brevardschools.org](mailto:BusRouters@Brevardschools.org)***
7. Transportation services will notify school and Christine Williams-Kelly with the arrangements.
8. School will notify the Guardian (Case Manager and/or Foster Parent) when transportation will begin.

Transportation questions should be directed to [BusRouters@Brevardschools.org](mailto:BusRouters@Brevardschools.org) (321-617-7776) or the designated BPS Points of Contact:

Ginny Gleason (Elementary) 321 633-1000 x389;

Michelle Bayer (Secondary) 321 735-2348

*\*Brevard Family Partnership (BFP) is the Lead Foster Care Agency for Brevard County and contracts Case Management Services through Family Allies. Jessica Ayala and Christine Williams-Kelly are BFP's Point of Contacts (POC's) for purposes of ESSA*