

ESSA FC Essentials



Definitions & Acronyms

- * **Foster Care**- 24-hour (a day) substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency (DCS, tribal, or local) has placement and care responsibility.



Definitions & Acronyms

- * **School of Origin**- the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change.



Definitions & Acronyms

ESSA- Every Student Succeeds Act

LEA- Local Educational Agency

POC- Point of Contact

SEA- State Education Agency (ADE)

IEP- Individualized Education Plan

SIS- Student Information System



Definitions & Acronyms

ADE- Arizona Department of Education

CWA- Child Welfare Agency (in Arizona, DCS or tribal)

DCS- Department of Child Safety

DCSS- Department of Child Safety Specialist

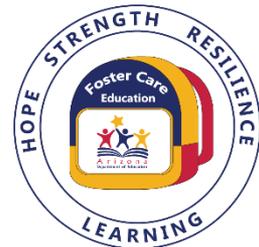
REL- Regional Education Liaison (DCS Staff)



ESSA & McKinney-Vento

- * The ESSA also amended section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act), **REMOVING** children “~~awaiting foster care placement~~” from the **definition of “homeless children and youths”** for purposes of the Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) program.*

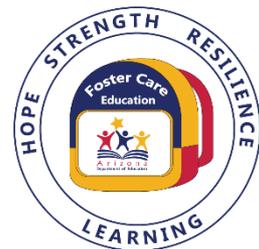
* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



School Stability Rationale

- * Studies demonstrate that students in foster care experience more challenges throughout their education compared to their peers, such as the following:

*Taken from 'Roadmap for Foster Care and K-12 Data Linkages Key Focus Areas to Ensure Quality Implementation' by Data Quality Campaign & Legal Center for Foster Care & Education



School Stability Rationale



Frequent school changes

*Taken from 'Roadmap for Foster Care and K-12 Data Linkages Key Focus Areas to Ensure Quality Implementation' by Data Quality Campaign & Legal Center for Foster Care Education



School Stability Rationale



Delayed enrollment when school changes occur

*Taken from 'Roadmap for Foster Care and K-12 Data Linkages Key Focus Areas to Ensure Quality Implementation' by Data Quality Campaign & Legal Center for Foster Care Education



School Stability Rationale



Higher rates of school suspensions and expulsions

*Taken from 'Roadmap for Foster Care and K-12 Data Linkages Key Focus Areas to Ensure Quality Implementation' by Data Quality Campaign & Legal Center for Foster Care Education



School Stability Rationale



Far lower high school and college graduation rates

*Taken from 'Roadmap for Foster Care and K-12 Data Linkages Key Focus Areas to Ensure Quality Implementation' by Data Quality Campaign & Legal Center for Foster Care & Education



ESSA Foster Care Legal Text



ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

- *Two Parts:

- *Part 1- SEA Portion

- *Part 2- LEA Portion

ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Part 1- SEA Portion

PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1111(g)(1)(E); 20 USC 6311(g)(1)(E)

- * “(E) the steps a **SEA** will take to ensure **collaboration** with the State agency responsible for administering the State plans under parts B and E of title IV of the SSA (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq. and 670 et seq.) to ensure the **educational stability of children in foster care**, including assurances that—



PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1111(g)(1)(E); 20 USC 6311(g)(1)(E)

- * “(i) any such child enrolls or **remains** in such child’s **school of origin**, unless a determination is made that it is not in such child’s **best interest** to attend the school of origin, which decision shall be based on all factors relating to the child’s best interest, including consideration of the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement;



PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1111(g)(1)(E); 20 USC 6311(g)(1)(E)

- * “(ii) when a determination is made that it is not in such child’s **best interest** to remain in the school of origin, the child is **immediately enrolled** in a new school, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment;



PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1111(g)(1)(E);
20 USC 6311(g)(1)(E)

- *“(iii) the enrolling school shall **immediately contact** the school last attended by any such child to obtain relevant academic and other **records**; and



PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1111(g)(1)(E); 20 USC 6311(g)(1)(E)

- * “(iv) the SEA will designate an employee to serve as a POC for CWAs and to oversee implementation of the State agency responsibilities required under this subparagraph, and such POC shall **not** be the State’s Coor. for Ed. of HYC under sect. 722(d)(3) of the McKV Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(d)(3));



Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA
Collaborate



FC children should
remain in their school
of origin



Basically...



Enroll Now

If not in the best interest of the child to remain, immediately enroll in new school.



Enrolling school shall immediately obtain records from previous school.



ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Part 2- LEA Portion

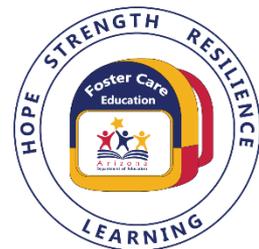
PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5); 20 USC 6312(c)(5)

- * “(c) ASSURANCES.—Each LEA plan shall provide assurances that the LEA will—
 - * “(5) collaborate with the State or local CWA to—
 - * “(A) designate a POC if the corresponding CWA notifies the LEA, in writing, that the agency has designated an employee to serve as a POC for the LEA; and



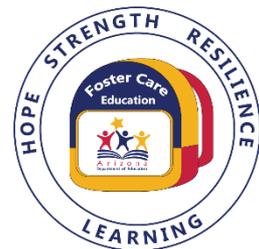
PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5); 20 USC 6312(c)(5) (cont.)

- * “(B) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the ESSA, develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care, which procedures shall—



PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5); 20 USC 6312(c)(5) (cont.)

- *“(i) ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with sect. 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)); and



PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5); 20 USC 6312(c)(5) (cont.)

*“(ii) ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the LEA will provide transportation to the school of origin if—



PL 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5); 20 USC 6312(c)(5) (cont.)

- *“(I) the local CWA agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation;
- *“(II) the LEA agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or
- *“(III) the LEA and the local CWA agree to share the cost of such transportation;



Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA
Collaborate



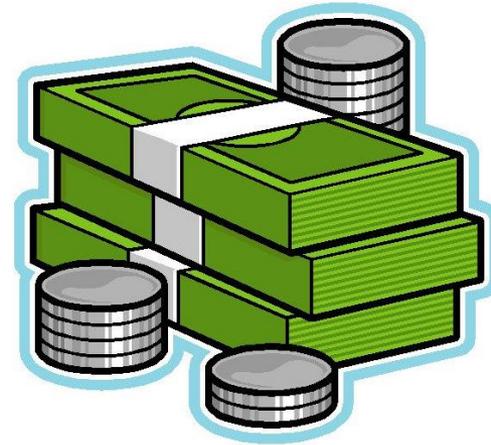
CWA & LEA establish
POCs



Basically...



Plans to transport FC children to their school of origin.



Additional costs- I pay, you pay, we pay.

Roles & Responsibilities



SEA Roles & Responsibilities



SEA Roles & Responsibilities

- * The SEA must designate a POC for the CWAs and this person may **NOT** be the State's Coord. for Ed. of HCY.
- * The SEA must ensure children in foster care are remaining in their school of origin, immediate enrollment, that LEAs and the CWA are collaborating for school stability & transportation, and that foster children are being identified as their own subgroup with student achievement & graduation rate data.



SEA Roles & Responsibilities

- * Advocating for a thorough best interest determination process regarding school selection
- * Monitoring LEAs to ensure compliance with the Title I requirements at the local level
- * Providing professional development opportunities and technical assistance for LEA POCs and other personnel regarding school stability and educational supports for children in foster care, as needed.*

* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Act of 2015
Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



LEA Roles & Responsibilities



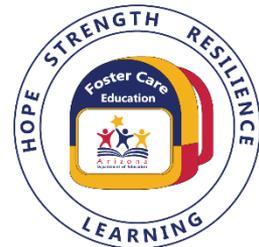
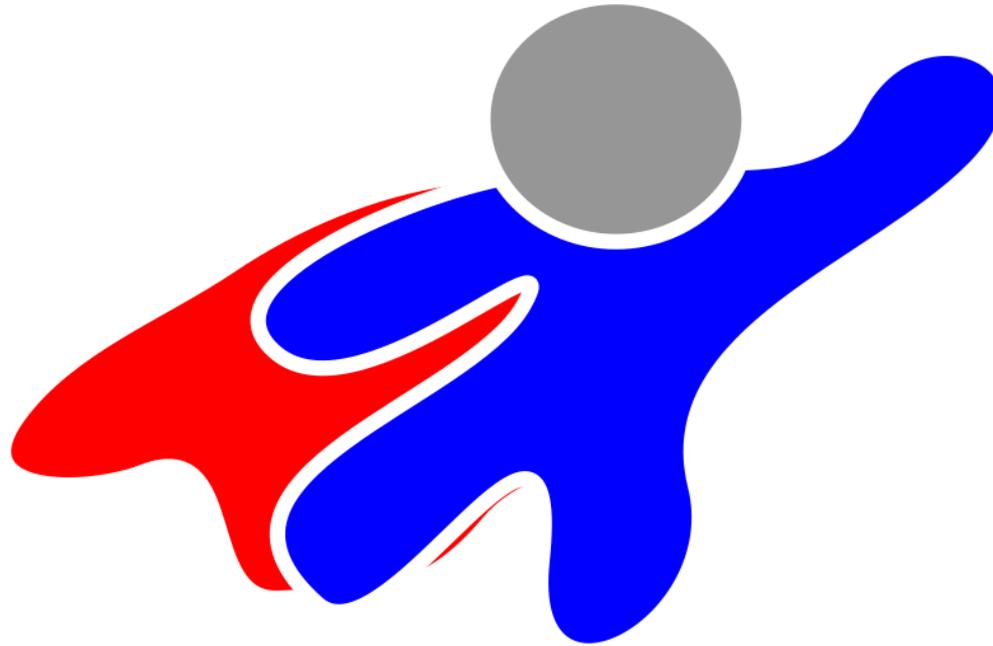
LEA POC

- * The LEA designates their POC. At the LEA level, this person **can** also serve as the LEA's McKinney-Vento Liaison/Specialist.
- * To update your LEA's POC:
 - * Send an email containing the POC's contact info to-
 - * EducationPOC@AzDCS.gov &
 - * FosterCare@azed.gov



LEA POC

*The LEA POC should:



LEA POC

- * Collaborate with the CWA to maintain school stability



LEA POC

- *Ensure the best interest is determined regarding school selection



LEA POC

- *Ensure necessary transportation is provided, funded, and arranged.



LEA POC

- * Ensure immediate enrollment, transfer of records, & that school staff are trained on the provisions & educational needs of children in foster care.*

* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



School of Origin

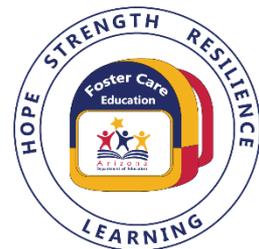
- * These provisions emphasize the importance of limiting educational disruption by keeping children who move in foster care (due to entering the foster care system or changing placements) in their schools of origin, unless it is determined to be in their best interest to change schools.*

* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.



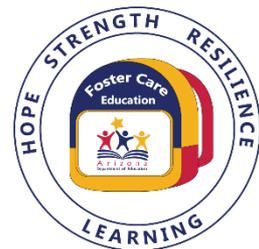
Best Interest Determination

- * The LEA & CWA should collaborate in determining the best interest of a child in foster care. The CWA is the final decision maker regarding a foster child's school selection if any conflict cannot be resolved.
- * The cost of transportation **CANNOT** be considered when determining the best interest of the child!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Best Interest Determination

Factored into the best interest determination should be:



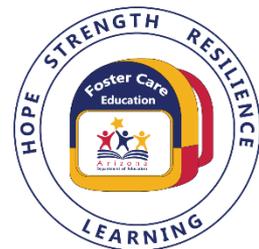
Best Interest Determination

- *The safety of the child
- *The wishes of the parent, caregiver, and child



Best Interest Determination

- * The toll of the commute, distance, and time for the child to travel to and from the school
- * Projected duration of out-of-home placement



Best Interest Determination

- *The child's academic, developmental, and socialization needs
- *The effect a school change will have on the child's learning and any potential for loss of credits*

*Taken from the Department of Child Safety Open Discussion on ESSA Foster Care PowerPoint



Transportation

- * An LEA must collaborate with the CWA to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the **duration of the child's time** in foster care.*

* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act



Transportation

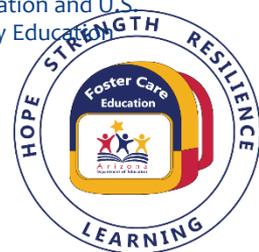
- * These procedures must ensure that—
 - * Children in foster care needing transportation to their schools of origin will promptly receive that transportation in a cost effective manner and in accordance with [section 475\(4\)\(A\) of the Social Security Act](#); and



Transportation

- * If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the LEA will provide such transportation if
 - * (1) the local CWA agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation;
 - * (2) the LEA agrees to pay for the cost; or
 - * (3) the LEA and local CWA agree to share the cost.*

* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



Transportation

- *The LEA should first pursue **existing & low or no-cost** options for transportation.



Transportation

- * Existing options could include:
 - * Transportation already provided by other programs (i.e. if a child in foster care has an IEP that requires they be transported; that transportation would already be covered by IDEA or if the child qualifies for Title IV-E funds)
 - * If a child is placed in a foster group home, the group home is **contractually obligated to transport up 50 miles one way**



Transportation

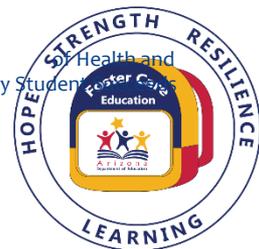
- * Low or no cost options could include:
 - * Caregiver provides transportation to school or existing bus routes; CWA may be able to provide mile reimbursement to the caregiver
 - * Amending current bus routes
 - * Public transportation, if appropriate



Transportation

- * **Additional costs** incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin should reflect the **difference** between what an LEA otherwise would spend to transport a student to their assigned school and the cost of transporting a child in foster care to their school of origin.*
- * These additional costs can be covered by the LEA, or the CWA, or the LEA & CWA can share those costs. The LEA POC should work closely with the CWA POC & REL to implement the transportation plan.

* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



Transportation

- * **BOTH** the **LEA & CWA** share the responsibility of school stability and transporting these children to their school of origin.



Immediate Enrollment

- * When a determination is made that remaining in the school of origin is not in a child's best interest, SEAs and LEAs must ensure that a child in foster care is **immediately enrolled** in his or her new school even if the student does not have the required documentation.



Immediate Enrollment

- *The enrolling school must then contact the student's prior school for relevant records.



Identification & Data

- * ... ESSA requires states and districts to publish annual report cards with information about the state as a whole and all districts and schools within the state.*

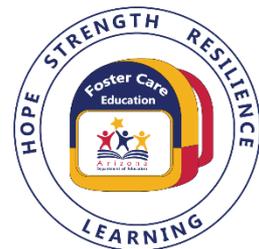
* Taken from the Leadership Conference Education Fund's 'Data Provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act' updated April 20, 2016



Identification & Data

- * ESSA requires districts to make a number of academic achievement data available in a way that either is or can be cross-tabulated by race/ethnicity, whether a student has a disability, English proficiency, income, migrant status, gender, homeless status, **foster care status**, and military connected status.*

* Taken from the Leadership Conference Education Fund's 'Data Provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act' updated April 20, 2016



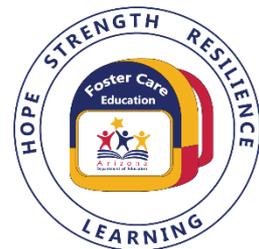
Identification & Data

- * Helpful Data table from the Leadership Conference Education Fund's 'Data Provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act'

| Data Element | Race & ethnicity | Students w/ Disabilities | English Learner | Income | Migrant | Gender | Homeless | Foster Care | Military Connected |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|-------------|--------------------|
| Test Scores | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| % tested by subject | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| HS Grad Rate | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | |
| K-8 Indicator of Student Growth | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| School Climate, Quality, and Safety | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| Postsecondary Enrollment | X | X | X | X | | | | | |

Identification & Data

- * It is important that any remaining or new student that meets the definition of ‘foster care’ (24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency (DCS or tribal) has placement and care responsibility) be accurately identified in your SIS.
- * For example, as you are updating a foster care student, you would go into the Student Demographics section & under Student Parent relationship, you would mark the Relationship Type as ‘Foster Parent’; whether it be a child in a foster home, foster group home, or a kinship placement that is in CWA custody.



Identification & Data

Responsible Party

Create new parent information - Resolve Parent Identity first

| API Resource Name | Get | Post | Put/Post | Delete |
|-------------------|-----|------|----------|--------|
| parents | | X | | |

Tables

EdFi.Parent

| Column Name | Data Type | Codes | Description |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| PersonalTitlePrefix (O) | nvarchar(30) | | A prefix used to denote the title, degree, position or seniority of the person. |
| FirstName (R) | nvarchar(75) | | A name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony, or through legal change. National Education Data Model (NEDM): First Name |
| MiddleName (O) | nvarchar(75) | | A secondary name given to an individual at birth, baptism, or during another naming ceremony. National Education Data Model (NEDM): Middle Name |
| LastSurname (R) | nvarchar(75) | | The name borne in common by members of a family. National Education Data Model (NEDM): Last Name/Surname |
| GenerationCodeSuffix (O) | nvarchar(10) | | An appendage, if any, used to denote an individual's generation in his family (e.g., Jr., Sr., III). |
| MaidenName (O) | nvarchar(75) | | The person's maiden name, if applicable. |
| SexTypeID (O) | int | Table A | A person's gender. |
| ParentUniqueID (R) | nvarchar(32) | | A unique alpha-numeric code used solely for backend purposes. |

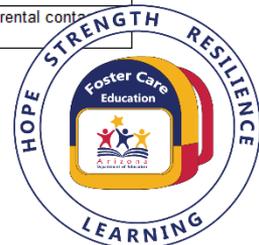
| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| studentParentAssociations | X |
|---------------------------|---|

Tables

EdFi.Student
ParentAssociation

| Column Name | Data Type | Codes | Description |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| StudentUniqueID (R) | nvarchar(32) | | A unique alpha-numeric code assigned to a student by the state. |
| ParentUniqueID (R) | nvarchar(32) | | A unique alpha-numeric code used solely for back-end purposes; a new ID is created for every enrollment each year. |
| RelationTypeID (O) | int | Table 22 | The nature of an individual's relationship to a student; for example: Father Mother Step Father Step Mother Foster Father Foster Mother Guardian; National Education Data Model (NEDM): Relationship to Student |
| PrimaryContactStatus (C) | bit | | Indicator of whether Responsible Party is the primary parental contact for the student. |

Modify parent information



Identification & Data

Table 22: Responsible Party Relationship Type

| ID | Code Value | ID | Code Value | ID | Code Value | ID | Code Value |
|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Aunt | 11 | FatherInLaw | 21 | Nephew | 31 | Great Grandparent |
| 2 | Brother | 12 | Fiance | 22 | Niece | 32 | Foster parent |
| 3 | BrotherInLaw | 13 | Fiancee | 23 | Other | 33 | Mother, step |
| 4 | CourtAppointedGuardian | 14 | Friend | 24 | SignificantOther | 34 | Father, step |
| 5 | Daughter | 15 | Grandfather | 25 | Sister | 35 | Great aunt |
| 6 | DaughterInLaw | 16 | Grandmother | 26 | Son | 36 | Great uncle |
| 7 | Employer | 17 | Husband | 27 | Unknown | 37 | Cousin |
| 8 | Father | 19 | Mother | 28 | Uncle | | |
| 9 | FathersSignificantOther | 18 | MothersSignificantOther | 29 | Ward | | |
| 10 | FathersCivilPartner | 20 | MothersCivilPartner | 30 | Wife | | |



Compliance

- * Each year, when an LEA applies for the ESEA Consolidated Grant (which includes Title I funds), they must upload a document of assurances which includes the foster care provisions laid out in ESSA.



Title I Monitoring

- * In Cycle 4 of the six year cycle, Title I specialists will do on-site monitoring. They will pull a sampling (10%) of your Procedure Transportation Plan to Ensure School Stability for Individual Students in Foster Care. The LEA will also upload the current Transportation Plan to Ensure School Stability for Students in Foster Care into ALEAT.

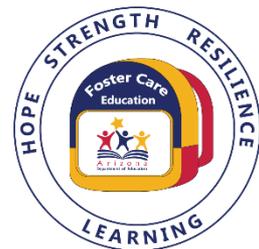


CWA Roles & Responsibilities



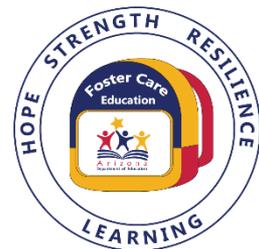
CWA Roles & Responsibilities

- *The CWA is required to include a plan for ensuring the educational stability of a child in foster care in the child's case plan. This plan must include:



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

- * An assurance that each placement of the child in foster care takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child was enrolled at the time of placement



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

- * An assurance that the CWA has coordinated with the LEA(s) to ensure the child can remain in that school, or if remaining in that school is not in the child's best interest, an assurance that the child will be enrolled immediately in a new school and that the new school obtains relevant academic and other records.



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

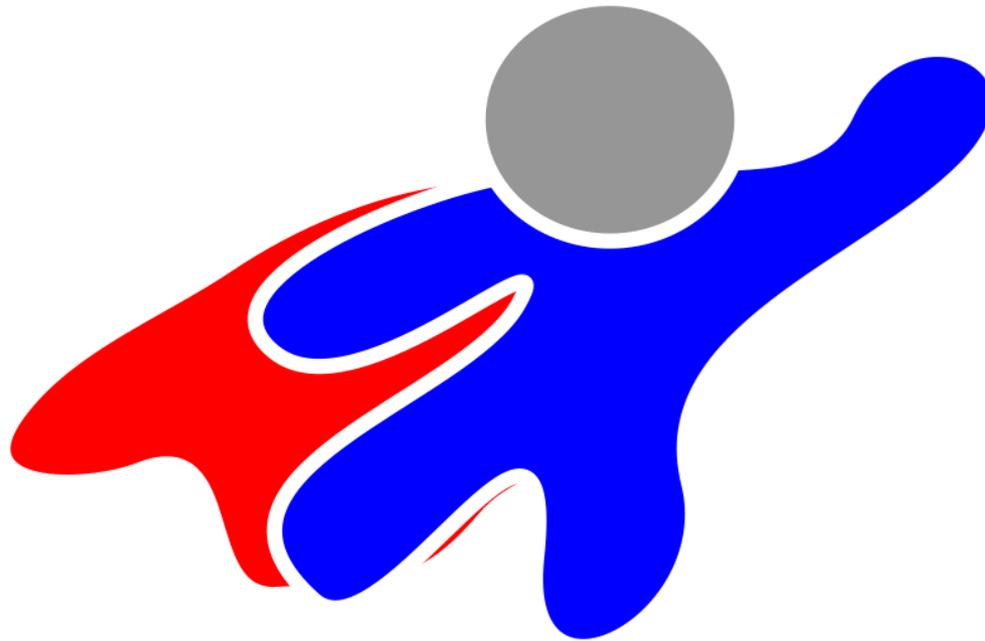
- * These assurances relate to the circumstances at the time of the child's initial placement into foster care, as well as each time a child moves to a different foster care placement.*

* Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

- * The roles of the CWA POC could include:



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

- * Collaborating with the SEA & LEA to ensure school stability for children in foster care, to determine the best interest of a child in regards to school selection, and facilitate transportation plan.



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

- *Notifying the LEA when a child enters foster care or changes placement.



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

* Helping expedite record transfers.



CWA Roles & Responsibilities

* Providing training to LEAs & caregivers.



DCS Regional POCs

- * **State level POC:** Barbara Guillen, Barbara.Guillen@azdcs.gov
- * The 5 CWA Regional POCs are:
 - * **Northern Region** (Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, Apache, and Navajo Counties): Christina Sanders, Christina.Sanders@azdcs.gov
 - * **Southwest Region** (Yuma, La Paz, and Western Maricopa Counties): Chanetta Curtis, Chanetta.Curtis@azdcs.gov
 - * **Central Region** (Eastern Maricopa and Pinal Counties): Patti Wenzel, Patricia.Wenzel@azdcs.gov
 - * **Pima Region** (Pima County): Czarina Balderrama, Czarina.Balderrama@azdcs.gov
 - * **Southeast Region** (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Gila counties): Sharon Travis, Rebecca.Travis@azdcs.gov



Whew!



Big Takeaways



Big Takeaways

- * School of origin
- * CWA & LEA collaboration for best interest determination & transportation to school of origin
- * Immediate Enrollment
- * Accurate identification



Contact Information

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ESSA AZ Foster Care POC

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Web Page:

- * Law
- * Guidance
- * Resources

<http://www.azed.gov/FosterCare/>

