

South Tippah School District



EDUCATIONAL **STABILITY** *for* CHILDREN *in* **FOSTER CARE**

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Implementation Date: July 1, 2025

Superintendent: Tony Elliott

School Board President: Tim Clark

Federal Programs Director: Kelly Gates

Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Liaison: Kelly Gates

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedures used in the South Tippah School District to enroll and withdraw children that have been placed under the care of the Mississippi Child Protection Service.

Goal

South Tippah School District in collaboration with Tippah County Division of Child Protection Services ensures that children placed in foster care have stability with regards to their education.

Definitions

District Point of Contact (DPC) – the person designated by the South Tippah School District Superintendent to represent the District with regards to foster children being enrolled or withdrawn from the district. The District Point of Contact will communicate directly with the Regional Director of Child Protective Services.

School Point of Contact (SPC) – the person designated by the building level Principal to represent the school with regards to foster children being enrolled or withdrawn from the school. The School Point of Contact will communicate directly with the District Point of Contact. The School Point of Contact will ensure that any and all student records are obtained when a foster child enrolls in the local school and that any and all student records are provided to the Child Protective Service Case Work when a foster child withdraws from the local school.

Regional Director of Child Protective Services (CPS) – the person from Child Protective Services that will communicate directly with the District Point of Contact and with the Child Protective Service Case Worker in charge of the case for a particular foster child.

Case Worker – the person from Child Protective Services that has been assigned the case of a child in foster care.

Foster Child – a child to whom the custody has been appointed to Child Protective Services by a sitting judicial authority.

Foster Parent – the parent(s) to whom a foster child is currently residing.

Enrollment of a Foster Child

Resident Foster Children

Foster children residing within the district boundaries shall be enrolled as any other student that resides within the boundaries of the district. The SPC shall obtain any and all records pertaining to the student's current education. A list of these records is found in Appendix A of this document.

Following the enrollment of the student the SPC will complete the enrollment document placing a copy on file in the office of the SPC while forwarding the original to the DPC. The SPC will keep on file the original until the student withdraws, graduates from the South Tippah School District, or the child is no longer in the care of Child Protective Services.

Non-Resident Foster Children

Foster children not residing within the district boundaries shall be enrolled once a determination has been made that it is in the best interest of the child to attend a school within the South Tippah School District. The DPC in collaboration of CPS will meet with the SPC, Principal, Parents (if allowed), Foster Parents, and other interested parties. The meeting shall take place within 5 business days after CPS has sought to enroll the child in the South Tippah School District or prior to CPS seeking enrollment in the South Tippah School District.

A determination as to whether or not it would be in the best interest of the child to attend the school in the South Tippah School District shall be made immediately following this meeting.

The South Tippah School District recognizes the right of a foster child to attend the child's school of origin provided that it is reasonable.

Withdrawal of a Student by CPS

CPS has the right to withdraw students assigned to them by a judicial authority. The SPC in this case is responsible for providing as many educational records as possible to make any transition from the school of origin to the new school a smooth transition. Records not on file in the school office shall be forwarded the new school within 24 hours following a request by the school or CPS.

The SPC shall contact the DPC if he/she thinks it would be in the best interest for the child being withdrawn to remain in the school of origin. The DPC will immediately contact the Regional Director of Child Protective Services to relay the concerns of the SPC as well as possibly scheduling a time to discuss the child's educational placement.

Transportation

When the South Tippah School District has determined that it is in the best interest of the child to remain in the school of origin, the district will document in the individualized student's plan regarding how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the student.

The district will document, in collaboration with MDCPS, the Transportation Plan that supports the district's obligations under state and federal law and follows all guidelines in MDE Rule 30.8, in order for the student to receive transportation services on the first day of the student's attendance.

The district will collaborate with the local child welfare agency when transportation is required to maintain children placed in foster care in a school of origin outside their usual attendance area or when in the best interest of the student.

The superintendent or designee, will collaborate with appropriate officials of the local child welfare agency, and officials from related districts/agencies to consider how such transportation is to be promptly arranged and funded in a cost-effective manner. If there are additional costs to be incurred in providing transportation to maintain a student in the school of origin, the district will provide transportation to such school if:

- The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the district for the cost of such transportation;
- The district agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or
- The district and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.

The district will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to school bus transportation.

Free/Reduced Lunch Application

Foster Care Parents or Child Protective Services should complete a Free/Reduced Lunch Form for the South Tippah School District. The form along with verification of foster care shall be submitted to the School Point of Contact who in turn will forward the documents to the District Point of Contact. The District Point of Contact will forward the documents to the Food Service Director or Food Service Secretary.

Best Interest Determination Form

Supporting Documentation

Indicate and attach any supporting documentation which was used in making this best interest determination interest. Send documentation to the receiving school district if applicable. (The following is checklist of sample documents that may be considered. The list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

- Report cards
- Progress reports
- Achievement data (test scores)
- Attendance data
- IEP or 504 Plan
- E-mails or correspondence from individuals consulted
- Disciplinary referrals
- Health reports/records

A copy of the BID form must be sent to the receiving school district and bid@mdcps.ms.gov. When applicable, a copy of the BID form must be sent to the group home and/or treatment facility.

BID Impasse

The COR Worker must forward the BID Packet to the MDCPS Education Unit if an impasse is reached between the LEA and MDCPS. The LEA POC must forward a copy to the MDE Compulsory School Attendance Unit if an impasse is reached.

**BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION
FOSTER CARE SCHOOL PLACEMENT FORM**

BID Timeframe			
A BID must be completed every time a youth comes into care or there is a placement change while in care. BID conferences/meetings with the school district POC must take place within five (5) business days of a child entering foster care or changing placement. The youth shall not be withdrawn/enrolled until a BID is completed.			
Student Information			
Student Name: (first, middle, last)	DOB:	Grade:	Date of BID:
Address/District of Residence:	MSIS:	IEP Ruling <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
School/District of Origin: <small>(enter school name)</small>			
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services Information			
Case Worker:	COR:	Phone: _____	Phone: _____
ASWS: _____			
Determination			
<input type="checkbox"/> The student shall remain in the district/school in which the child was enrolled at the time of placement (school of origin).			
<input type="checkbox"/> Based on the best interest determination, a change in school placement is recommended. In accordance with ESSA, the child will be enrolled in the district/school of current residence (receiving school).			
Name of School District/School: <small>(enter school name)</small>			
NOTE: If a change in educational placement is necessary, enrollment in the new school must take place immediately. All educational records must be provided to the receiving school. * An IEP placement meeting should be scheduled with the new school district's POC.			
BID Participants			
Title	Participated	Printed Name	Signature
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Agree with Determination <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Birth Parent(s) if applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
MDCPS POC- Case Worker or Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Guardian Ad Litem	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
POC for School of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
POC for New School District (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
IEP Team Member (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Foster Parent (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ed. Decision Maker (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

South Tippah School District

Transportation Agreement Form (page 1 of 2)

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade: _____

MSIS ID: _____

Custodial Agent Caregiver (Name and Contact Information):

Caregiver (Name and Contact Information):

Educational Representative, if applicable (Name and Contact Information):

District: _____

District Foster Care Point of Contact (Name and Contact Information):

Case Worker (Name and Contact Information):

The custodial agency verifies that:

1. It is in the student's best interest to remain in the school of origin based on the following factors:

2. Eligibility of the child under Title IV-E from the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services: Yes No

a. If YES, reimbursement for some funding of transportation costs:

will be pursued

cannot be pursued for the reason below:

Transportation Agreement Form (page 2 of 2)

3. The following was executed to identify a no-cost or low-cost transportation service:

The district verifies that:

4. There is an existing transportation option that can server the student's new housing placement.

Yes No

If YES, explain the option:

The District and Mississippi Child Protection Services agree that the most cost effective transportation procedures for this student will be:

The District and Mississippi Child Protection Services agree that while permanent transportation is arranged, interim transportation arrangements will be:

These transportation procedures were agreed to on the following date: _____ and will be implemented within five (5) days, by the following date: _____.

Authorized Signature
Mississippi Child Protective Services

Date

Signature
LEA Foster Care Point of Contact

Date

Dispute Resolution to State Level Point of Contact

To appeal the district's decision to the Mississippi Department of Education and Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, please complete this form and submit it by the date indicated on the Written Notice you received from the school. You may submit this form by any of the following methods:

- Scan and email it to TWilliams@mdek12.org with the subject "Foster Child Dispute Appeal" to Terissa Williams, Mississippi Department of Education, Foster Care Point of Contact;

OR

- Return the paper form to Terissa Williams, Mississippi Department of Education, Foster Care Point of Contact at 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201

Student Name: _____

School in which enrollment is sought: _____

I am the educational decision-maker for this student, and I believe the school in which we are seeking enrollment is in the student's best interest because:

I believe the student has a right to attend this school because:

If you would like to provide additional information, please attach it to this form. The student shall remain in the school of origin, receiving all appropriate educational services including transportation, until the dispute reaches its final resolution.

Educational decision-maker name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Appendix A

Children in Foster Care Enrollment Records Checklist

The following records are required for enrollment of a child in foster care.

Supporting Documentation:

- Report Cards and Progress Reports
- Discipline Records
- Student Achievement
- Teacher Evaluations
- Attendance Records
- Written input from absent participants
- IEP and/or 504 Plan
- Transcript showing current credits, if high school student
- Withdrawal from Previous School
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Copy of Immunization Form
- Other: _____