

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

September 24, 2009

M E M O R A N D U M

What's Inside:DESE's
transportation
options for
promoting
educational stability.

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS PROVIDED BY DESE IN FAVOR
OF EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN
ALTERNATIVE CARE

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification on the transportation options provided by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in support of educational stability for children in alternative care. The Foster Care Education Bill of Rights requires Children's Division staff to work with local school districts/school liaisons to ensure that children remain in the school they are enrolled in at time of placement.

Educational permanence should be a priority when assessing the child's placement needs and making placement decisions. Based on the location of the resource provider, the school district may be willing to provide transportation. On September 1, 2009, DESE provided a letter to all school districts in Missouri regarding Foster Care Education Bill of Rights. The letter provides transportation options a school district and a child-placement agency team are to take into consideration when a foster child is placed as a part of an initial or subsequent family support team meeting, including:

1. The school bus of the foster child's home district travels to the home of the foster parent to pick up the child. These miles would be considered eligible miles for the school district to include in their allowable cost for state aid;
2. The resource provider provides transportation and receives reimbursement for mileage from the school district. School districts can include this as an allowable cost for state aid;
3. The resource provider meets the school bus at the boundary line of the school district. Please note that school districts may or may not provide mileage reimbursement;
4. The school district contracts with an individual, besides the foster parent, to transport the child to their home school district. This would be an allowable cost for state aid for school districts; or

5. The resource provider provides transportation with no reimbursement for mileage from the school district.

If it is determined that the school district is unable or unwilling to provide or fund the transportation then the school district/education liaison should be asked to provide written documentation of this decision to the Children's Division.

In the event that the school is unable or unwilling to provide or fund the transportation for the child to remain in their original school district, the resource provider should be approached about providing this transportation. Refer to CD09-85 in regards to travel reimbursement for resource providers.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT Crystal Wilson 573-751-1354 Crystal.L.Wilson@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Amy Martin 573-751-2981 Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS	
N/A	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS	
N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES	
<u>DESE Letter on Foster Care Education Bill of Rights</u> <u>CD09-85</u>	
RELATED STATUTE	
<u>Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008</u> <u>HB154</u> <u>SB291</u>	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE	
N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS	
<u>S21.2.01</u> 7 th Edition COA Standards <u>FC6.03</u> 8 th Edition COA Standards	

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)

Item 21, Educational Needs of Children

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Parental Resilience

Social Connections

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

FACES REQUIREMENTS

N/A