

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

September 4, 2009

M E M O R A N D U M

What's Inside:
Promoting Educational Stability through travel reimbursement for resource providers

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF
FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: FOSTERING CONNECTIONS ACT AND FOSTER CARE EDUCATION BILL OF RIGHTS– PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE

DISCUSSION:

Federal House Resolution 6893 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act requires state child welfare agencies to coordinate with schools to improve educational stability for children in foster care. Missouri's ["Foster Care Education Bill Of Rights"](#) (Sections 167.014, 137.019 and 210.1050) requires that **youth 14 and older should have a voice in making the decision on what school district they would like to attend.**

As a result of these two pieces of legislation and with the best interest of the child in mind, Children's Division staff are to work with local school districts/school liaisons to ensure that children remain in the school they are enrolled in at the time of placement into alternative care. Arrangements for the child to remain in the school they are enrolled in should be discussed during the 72 hour Family Support Team meeting and evaluated during Placement Stability Family Support Team meetings. Educational stability should be a priority when assessing the child's placement needs and making placement decisions. Based on location of the resource provider, the school district may be willing to provide transportation. If it is determined that the school district is unable or unwilling to provide the transportation then the school district/educational liaison should be asked to provide documentation in writing to the Children's Division.

In the event that the school is unwilling to provide transportation for the child to remain in their original school district, the resource parent should be approached about providing this transportation. Mileage reimbursement for transportation costs will now include reimbursement for resource providers transporting foster children to the school they were enrolled in at the time of placement into foster care. Resource providers may receive mileage reimbursement at the current state mileage rate for each mile over a 10 mile round trip per day. The mileage will be reimbursed using a Children's Services Integrated Payment System Invoice, CS-65, with the service code TRED.

The resource provider will complete the Travel Expense Log, CD-106, and submit it to the local CD staff for approval within thirty (30) days of the month that the trip occurred. The written approval will be attached to the Travel Expense Log, CD-106, and CS-65 for submission of reimbursement.

Additionally, if it is determined during a Family Support Team Meeting that remaining in the same school district is not in the best interest of the child, it shall be documented with an explanation as to why the child should not remain in the school district of origin. The case plan must include assurances by Children's Division and the local school district educational liaison that each child age 14 and over is given the opportunity under this legislation to have a voice in making the decision on which school district they would like to attend. Youth may express to attend the school district they resided when placed into alternative care or where their new placement provider resides.

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	
Section 4 Chapter 7 Subsection 2 Family Support Team Meeting Section 4 Chapter 11 Attachment C Special Expenses Payment	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS	
N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES	
CD09-82 2009 Legislation	
RELATED STATUTE	
Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h6893enr.txt.pdf	
HB154 http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills091/biltxt/truly/HB0154T.HTM	
SB291 http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills091/billpdf/commit/SB0291c.pdf	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE	
N/A	

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS

[S21.2.01](#) 7th Edition COA Standards

[FC6.03](#) 8th Edition COA Standards

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)

Item 21, [Educational Needs of Children](#)

PROTECTIVE FACTORS <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/philbase.pdf>

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