

Foster Care Education

E-Communication



COLORADO
Department of Education

October, 2018

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http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/fostercare_index

This e-communication is intended to provide Child Welfare Education Liaisons (CWELs) and other foster care stakeholders informed about current news and events related to students in foster care.

News and Updates

Foster Care Data Coming Soon!

Data sharing between CDE and CWELs

CDE and the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) are in the process of amending the data sharing agreement to allow CWELs to receive a monthly report of students in out-of-home placement (foster care). This data will allow CWELs to compare the list to notifications received by county departments of human services to ensure accuracy. As a caution, this data will not be “real time” as there is a 60-day window for counties to enter data into the TRAILS database. This data will allow schools to plan for transportation costs and future estimates and for planning to apply for Title I, II, and IV dollars to support the educational needs of children and youth in foster care. More information to come in upcoming months.

Working with Nutrition Services on Free Lunch for Foster Students

NEW this year!

Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Coordinators receive a list of students who are categorically eligible for free lunch. This allows FRL coordinators to ensure students in foster care are receiving free meals. As with the data CWELs will eventually receive, this data is not “real time”. It is used to make sure all students receive free lunch who qualify.

CWELs should work with free lunch coordinators to develop a process for identification and verification of students in foster care. Nutrition Services at CDE is encouraging CWELs to use a similar process as with McKinney-Vento eligible students. Note: CWELs have the authority to verify foster care status with the information received from the counties. This will allow students to have access to free meals from the first day they enter an out-of-home placement rather than waiting for the monthly report. Please contact Kristin Myers at CDE with additional questions.

ESSA and Colorado HB 18-1306 Implementation News

Funding Available for Transportation to School of Origin for Foster Care Students

Transportation plans need to be updated!

Many CWELs may have already received requests from your county human services agency to finalize your written procedures (commonly referred to as an MOU). This written agreement is intended to govern how districts and counties will provide, arrange, and fund transportation for students in foster care for the duration of a student's foster placement. Transportation agreements need to be updated to determine how counties and districts intend to split remaining transportation costs. HB 18-1306 has a fiscal note that allows counties to be reimbursed for 80 percent of transportation costs for students in out of home placement. Counties and districts are required to split the remaining 20 percent equitably, and thus will need to determine a process to split costs and obtain reimbursement from the Colorado Department of Human Services.

The requirement to have clear written procedures between school districts and child welfare agencies is a part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which means this will be a requirement regardless HB 18-1306.

ESSA requires Local Education Agencies are required to develop and implemented 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. The citation and quote from ESSA is provided below:

“(B) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act, 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— “(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 section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)); and “(ii) ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the local educational agency will provide transportation to the school of origin if— “(I) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation; “(II) the local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or “(III) the local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.” §1112(c)(5)(B), Every Student Succeeds Act.

Additionally, each school district that receives federal funding checked an assurance in the consolidated application for 2018-19. This assurance reads:

“The LEA/BOCES has adopted policies and practices to ensure that children in foster care will remain, if possible, in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time placement. When remaining in such school is not in the best interest of the child, the LEA will provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school, with all of the educational records of the child provided to the new school. The LEA has, or will adopt, policies and practices to ensure that the enrolling school will immediately contact the school last attended by the child in foster care to obtain relevant academic and other records. § 1111(g)(1)(E).”

Note: The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is requiring all County Departments of Human Services to submit a written transportation procedure between the county and the school districts located within the county by October 15, 2018.

Highly Mobile Student Graduation

Credit attainment and progress toward graduation for highly mobile students

HB 18-1306 allows school districts to waive certain graduation requirements and credits for highly mobile student if the district determines it is in the best interest of the student. The intent of these provisions are to allow districts to make professional judgements on behalf of students who experience high mobility during high school and experience barriers to credit attainment and graduation. Key provisions in the bill are listed below:

- “(b)When a student experiences out-of-home placement **at any point during high school**, an education provider **may waive course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for placement in courses** or programs under the jurisdiction of the education provider.”
- “(c) An education provider **may waive specific courses required for graduation** if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another jurisdiction or the student has **demonstrated competency** in the content area. If the school does not grant a waiver to a child who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the education provider is **encouraged to provide an alternative means of acquiring** the required course work or competency requirements so a timely graduation may occur. The receiving education provider awarding the diploma **may award elective credit** for any portion of the student’s certified course work that is not aligned with the curriculum of the receiving education provider or for demonstrated competencies that are not aligned with the receiving education provider.”
- “(c) An education provider **may waive specific courses required for graduation** if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another jurisdiction or the student has **demonstrated competency** in the content area. If the school does not grant a waiver to a child who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the education provider is **encouraged to provide an alternative means of acquiring** the required course work or competency requirements so a timely graduation may occur. The receiving education provider awarding the diploma **may award elective credit** for any portion of the student’s certified course work that is not aligned with the curriculum of the receiving education provider or for demonstrated competencies that are not aligned with the receiving education provider.”
- “(d) If a student in out-of-home placement who is transferring at the beginning of or during twelfth grade is **ineligible to graduate from the receiving education provider, the education provider may request a diploma from a previously attended education provider**, and the previously attended education provider may issue a diploma if the student meets the education provider’s graduation requirement.”

Resources for CWELS

CWEL Toolkit

Resources for CWELs available on the foster care education website

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/cweltoolkit>

October Events and Presentations

Conferences and Trainings

U.S. Senate Briefing on Foster Care Education

Casey Family Programs and American Bar Association invited CDE and CDHS to present at a Congressional briefing with the bipartisan U.S. Senate Caucus on Foster Youth. The briefing focused on educational stability and success for youth in foster care. More information to come in next month's update.

National Foster Care Summit

The SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro are hosting a summit for State Education Agency Foster Care Points of Contact and their Child Welfare counterparts. This summit is intended to identify best practices and barriers in ESSA implementation. More information to come about the lessons learned at this summit will be in the November update.

Colorado School Counselor Association Annual Conference and School Counselor Corps Grantee Meeting Presentations

Kristin Myers is presenting three sessions at the CSCA conference to support school counselors in working effectively with highly mobile student populations. Contact Kristin for a copy of the presentations or to request additional professional development for school counselors.

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) National Conference

Kristin Myers is presenting four sessions at NAEHCY this year related to ESSA implementation. Contact Kristin for a copy of the presentations or for more information about professional development.

For More Information

If you have general questions or need assistance, contact:

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