

Wagner Community School Transportation Plan for Students Placed in Foster Care

Sequence:

1. When a student is placed in foster care or changes residence while in foster care, the Child Protection Services (CPS) worker must notify the school district contact person. If the new residence is not in the same school district, the district's Point of Contact (POC) must be notified.
2. If necessary, the district's POC can notify the School of Origin (SOO) transportation designee.
 - a. The POC should provide the student's name, current school, new residence address, and whether the student has an IEP with specialized transportation.
 - b. The SOO transportation designee identifies potential ways that the child could be transported (see list of options below).
3. The CPS worker and the district POC share their information. The joint decision is made by the CPS worker and the district POC.
4. If the decision is that the student will remain in the current school, the district POC can notify the SOO transportation designee, who then assists in arranging transportation to and from school.

Options:

Multiple factors will be considered and addressed when determining transportation options for these students, including: safety for the student and other students being transported; student age; length of commute; and distance. Information from the SOO transportation designee about these factors will be provided so that the plan will be in the best interest of the child and include consideration of cost-effective measures.

The following options can be considered to provide SOO transportation:

1. Existing transportation can be modified slightly to accommodate the new address such as:
 - a. An existing bus route can be used.
 - b. An existing bus route can be modified slightly to accommodate the new address.
 - c. Specialized transportation offered to other students can be accessed, such as:
 - i. School district car;
 - ii. Public transportation;
2. The CPS worker also should explore options outside of those provided by the school district, such as reimbursing the foster parents for transportation costs, or including transport in contracts with licensed child placing agencies or group homes.

Funding:

If Wagner Community School can offer an existing means of transportation at no additional cost, CPS will not be charged.

CPS and Wagner Community School can work together, as described above, to provide a form of transportation that best meets the child's needs. CPS will explore different funding sources to assist with transportation. The school district's Title I, Part A funds may be used to assist with excess transportation costs if funds exist after covering mandated responsibilities (such as transportation for students experiencing homelessness).

If the student has an IEP that includes provisions for specialized transportation, transportation must be provided by the school district responsible for the student's Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Based on South Dakota's special education regulations, any alternative special education placement, whether public or private, assumes specialized transportation is part of the IEP and must be provided for the student to receive FAPE.