



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 4, 2018

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Foster Care Liaisons
Consolidated Application Main Contacts

FROM: Fred Williams, Manager, Regional Support Unit
Office of Field Services (OFS)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Williams".

SUBJECT: Transportation Reimbursement Changes for Students in Foster Care

This memorandum serves to outline changes regarding payment for education transportation for students experiencing foster care.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) states that children and youth in foster care should remain in the school of origin when found in their best interest. This determination of best interest will either show that the child should remain in the school of origin, even if being placed outside of that Local Educational Agency (LEA) or, that the child should transfer to the LEA of residence where he/she is now residing while in foster care. ESSA also ensures 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)) (Title IV-E eligibility).

If it is determined that the child should remain in the school of origin and the student is placed outside of the LEA, transportation will need to be arranged by the case worker in collaboration with the LEA foster care liaison.

Beginning February 1, 2018, payment for transportation to the school of origin should be paid as the following:

- For children who are Title IV-E eligible, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will pay the entire "additional cost" for transportation.

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- For children who are not Title IV-E eligible, MDHHS will split the “additional cost” for transportation with the school district at the rate of 50%-50%.

When transportation is required to start prior to the Title IV-E eligibility determination, both parties should complete the MDHHS provided Transportation Plan Agreement. It is the foster care worker’s responsibility to notify the school once the Title IV-E eligibility determination has been completed so that payments can be processed.

For students placed in foster care but remain within the school of origin school district, “additional costs” for transporting the student will not be reimbursed by MDHHS.

LEAs may use Title I, Part A funds to cover the “additional cost” of transporting ineligible Title IV-E students to their school of origin. These estimated costs may be added to the LEA Consolidated Application during the Amendment window. If the Amendment has been completed, please contact the Regional Consultant for your area at 517-373-4004.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Kathleen Hoehne, Michigan Department of Education Foster Care Consultant, at hoehnek@michigan.gov or 517-373-4004.