



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SUE C. CARNELL, Ph.D.
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 9, 2025

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintende
Division of Assessment, School Improvement, and System Support 

SUBJECT: ESSA and State Requirements and Reminders for Local Education Agencies Supporting Youth Experiencing Foster Care

Local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), that accept federal funds are required to identify a district-employed foster care liaison per the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) 1112\(c\)\(5\)](#)

Child welfare agency staff, public and private agencies, and others, including foster parents, biological parents, and guardians ad litem (GALs), use the district-employed foster care liaison contact information to communicate specifics of each case to the LEA.

To comply with [ESSA 1112\(c\)\(5\)](#), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recommends that LEAs do the following to fulfill the statutory responsibilities included in [Title I sections 1111\(g\)\(1\)\(E\)](#) and [1112\(c\)\(5\)](#):

- Ensure that the local foster care liaison's contact information is entered correctly into the [Educational Entity Master \(EEM\)](#) repository.
- Review assigned staff within the EEM annually to verify the LEA still employs the foster care liaison and that the current contact person is entered.
- Ensure the person assigned as the foster care liaison has the capacity to be effective in this role.
- Develop and promote communication that engages school staff, case managers, foster parents, biological parents (for temporary court wards who retain educational rights in making decisions about their children), and GALs.
- Establish written policies and procedures that:
 - Ensure students experiencing foster care remain in their school of origin ([ESSA 1111\(g\)\(1\)\(E\)\(i\)](#)), unless it is determined not to be in their best interest, or are immediately enrolled in the school placement

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determined by the case manager ([Michigan Public Act 23 of 2024](#); [MCL 380.1148\(2\)](#)).

- Ensure timely transfer of youth records between schools when the youth's placement is in a new school ([MCL 380.1135\(4\)](#); [ESSA 1111\(g\)\(1\)\(E\)\(ii\)-\(iii\)](#)).
- Provide transportation to and from the school of origin ([ESSA 1112\(c\)\(5\)\(B\)](#)).

To help LEAs understand how they can support students who are experiencing foster care, MDE released a resource entitled [Michigan Educator Resource Guide for Understanding and Implementing LEA Stability for High School Youth Experiencing Foster Care](#). This resource, along with other important information, is available on MDE's [Foster Care webpage](#).

If you have questions, please email Kathleen Hoehne at HoehneK@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments