



IOWA

Department of Education

Ryan M. Wise, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Dear District Point of Contact:

This email is being sent to all school district foster care point of contact (POC) to provide new or revised information to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) foster care provisions. Updates to previous guidance include clarification of how additional costs are calculated and the amount of DHS' share of the costs.

Key updates are detailed below:

Transportation

1. DHS has a maximum daily financial obligation for additional costs of transportation.
 - a. The maximum daily rate is calculated by formula using information listed on the most recent year's "Annual Transportation Data for Iowa Public Schools". The maximum daily rate equals the "State Average Cost per Pupil Transported" multiplied by 20 and divided by 180 school days.
 - b. The current maximum daily rate for non-contiguous and out of state foster care placements is \$70.72/day;
2. The calculation of additional costs for transportation by van or car are revised as follows:
 - . The current standard mileage rate for 2018 is \$.545/mile;
3. The calculation of additional costs for transportation by yellow bus are revised as follows:
 - . The trip mileage added to the regular bus route in order to transport the student will be used to calculate the additional transportation costs.
 - a. This trip mileage will be multiplied by the number of one way trips per billing cycle and then multiplied by the district of origin's current average cost per mile amount listed in the Annual Transportation Report to arrive at a mileage cost amount. This rate can be found at the following URL: <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/school-transportation/2017/12/2016-2017-annual-transportation-data-iowa-public-schools>;
4. The calculation of additional costs for transportation by care provider or family member are revised as follows:
 - . The current standard mileage rate for 2018 is \$.545/mile;
5. Any calculated transportation costs exceeding \$141.44/day will require additional support and may result in a partial denial of the claim for being excessive and not cost effective.

Memorandum of Agreement

An updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which includes guidance changes from the previous year, is attached to this email for districts to sign. As you will notice, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has already signed the MOA. After the district signs the MOA, a copy of the signed document needs to be kept in the district offices and in the office of the district point of contact. In addition, local DHS may request a copy of the signed agreement. If DHS does make this request, the district should provide them with the updated copy.

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LEA POC Expectations

It is essential the designated POC have sufficient capacity to fulfill their specific duties, considering the roles and responsibilities of the POC to facilitate the implementation of the Title I foster care provisions. The POC should be a district employee with a background in child welfare, at risk, special education, community resources and should not have a vested interest in the district as the superintendent or school business official does. Many times the POC must be a liaison between the district and the child welfare agency. If the superintendent needs to act as a secondary point of contact during times when the primary contact is unavailable, that would be acceptable.

LEA/DHS Data Sharing

Over the last year, the DE and the DHS have worked diligently to create a means of providing the field with the student level data to ensure all students placed in foster care are receiving the services they need. The Departments are in the final stages of accomplishing this task and we hope the district POC and local DHS staff will receive access to this data this school year. After the process for providing access to the data is finalized, the field will receive an email detailing how the information can be accessed.

Foster Care Google Folder

Lastly, access to a Google Folder containing an ESSA foster care manual and tools, statewide point of contact list, an example of the data being gathered on the ESSA foster care additional transportation reimbursement form, and the actual ESSA foster care additional transportation reimbursement form can be found at this link:

[2018-19 ESSA Foster Care - Google Folder](#)

Steve Crew
Email: Steve.Crew@iowa.gov
Phone: 515-326-1029

Susan Walkup
Email: Susan.Walkup@iowa.gov
Phone: 515-661-7079