

## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The School Board provides for the transportation of students as required by state and federal laws and regulations.

The superintendent collaborates with the local social services agency to 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 time in foster care. The procedures 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 42 U.S. C. § 675(4)(A) and ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin, the school division will provide transportation to the school of origin if the local social services agency agrees to reimburse the local school division for the cost of such transportation, the school division agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation or the school division and the local social services agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.

Students may be suspended from using school transportation services for violations of the Student Code of Conduct or when the student endangers the health, safety or welfare of other riders. In such cases the parent or guardian is responsible for transporting the student to school.

Adopted: May 13, 2014

Amended: May 22, 2017

Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 6312.

Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-176, 22.1-221, 22.1-254.

Cross Refs.:	EEAB	School Bus Scheduling and Routing
	EEAC	School Bus Safety Program
	IICA	Field Trips
	JCA	Transfer Requests by Student Victims of Crime
	JEC-R	School Admission
	JECA	Admission of Homeless Children
	JECB (Opt. 1)	Admission of Nonpublic Students for Part-Time Enrollment
	JEG	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
	JFCC	Student Conduct on School Buses
	JFC-R	Standards of Student Conduct
	LC-E	Charter School Application Addendum

**Transportation Procedures for Students in Foster Care under the  
*Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015*  
Wise County Public Schools**

National research shows children in foster care are at high-risk of dropping out of school and are unlikely to attend or graduate from college. Frequent mobility of students in foster care is a barrier to their academic success. The *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) requires that school divisions and child welfare agencies collaborate to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin during the time students are in foster care when it is in their best interest. These procedures will align with the broader school stability processes found in the *Joint Guidance on School Placement for Students in Foster Care*.

Under ESSA, transportation procedures for children in foster care must:

- 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 the child welfare agency's authority to use child welfare funding for school of origin transportation;
- Ensure that, **if** there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the division will provide transportation to the school of origin **if**:
  - the local child welfare agency agrees to **reimburse** the LEA for the cost of such transportation;
  - the division **agrees** to pay for the cost of such transportation; **or**
  - the division and the local child welfare agency **agree** to share the cost of such transportation.

Development of the local plan included the following participants:

<b>Title/Role of Participant in Plan Development</b>	<b>Name of Participant</b>
Title I director/coordinator	Amber Boggs
Local foster care liaison	Marcia Shortt/Amber Boggs
McKinney-Vento liaison (for consultation purposes)	Marcia Shortt/Amber Boggs
Representative from the school division's pupil transportation department (school of origin (SOO) transportation designee)	Mark Giles
Representative from the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS)	

## **Wise County Schools 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 LDSS worker must notify the principal and the local superintendent. If the new residence is not in the same school zone, the foster care liaison must be notified and invited to participate in the Best Interest Determination (BID).
2. Upon receipt of the invitation to participate in the BID, the foster care liaison notifies the school of origin transportation designee.
  - a. The foster care liaison should provide the student's name, current school, new residence address, and whether the student has an IEP with specialized transportation.
  - b. The school of origin transportation designee identifies potential ways that the child could be transported (see list of options below) if the BID results in a decision to maintain the current school enrollment. This information is given to the foster care liaison to include in the BID.
3. The LDSS worker, foster care liaison, and other essential members of BID share their information. The joint decision is made by the LDSS worker and the foster care liaison.
4. If the BID decision is that the student will remain in the current school, the foster care liaison notifies the school of origin transportation designee, who then assists the LDSS worker in arranging transportation to and from school.

### **Options:**

Multiple factors will be considered and addressed in the BID when determining transportation options for foster care 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 BID will be comprehensive and will include consideration of cost-effective measures.

The following options will be considered to provide SOO transportation:

1. An existing bus route can be used.
2. An existing bus route can be modified slightly to accommodate the new address.
3. Specialized transportation offered to other students can be accessed, such as:
  - a. Special education;
  - b. Alternative education;
  - c. Magnet school; or
  - d. McKinney-Vento transportation.
4. Existing specialized transportation can be modified slightly to accommodate the new address.
5. Wise County Schools has additional options that could be accessed, such as using a county car.

6. Wise County Schools may identify alternatives not provided directly by the school division that the LDSS could access or that Wise County Schools would be willing to assist in accessing (this could be facilitating the arrangement or providing the transportation and being reimbursed). Examples include:
  - a. Cabs or other contracted transport; or
  - b. Public transportation such as city buses, Metro, etc.
7. The LDSS worker also should explore options outside of those provided by the school division, such as reimbursing the foster parents for transportation costs, or including transport in contracts with licensed child placing agencies or group homes.

**Funding:**

If the student has an IEP that includes provisions for specialized transportation, transportation must be provided by the school division responsible for the student's Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Based on Virginia'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.

If Wise County Schools can offer an existing means of transportation at no additional cost, the LDSS will not be charged.

If Wise County Schools can provide transportation but will need to modify a route or create a new option, the SOO transportation designee will calculate the cost that will be charged to the LDSS. This calculation is not required until the BID has been completed and the decision to maintain the current school enrollment is made. The LDSS should explore whether the student is eligible for IV-E or CSA funds to be used to cover the cost. The school division'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).