

# North Carolina Foster Care Education Program



**Overview:** Each local education agency (LEA) is required to designate at least one employee as the Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) to ensure school stability and immediate enrollment for students in foster care. The POC coordinates with the local child welfare agency to address enrollment, transportation, best interest determinations (BIDs), interagency collaboration, and other supports that remove barriers to academic success.

## Key Responsibilities for LEA Foster Care Points of Contact (POCs)

### Immediate Enrollment

- Serve as the LEA expert, ensuring students are immediately enrolled, attending classes, and participating in school activities.
- Develop and document the process for BID meetings.
- Participate in all BID meetings, to the extent possible.
- Facilitate prompt transfer of records when students change school placements.
- Resolve disputes related to BID processes and school of origin transportation.
- Establish a coordinated process with nutrition services to ensure students can access meals immediately.
- Train all school staff on how to support the complex needs of students.

### School Stability

- Collaborate with DSS to ensure school of origin transportation is provided.
- Support awarding or recovery of course credit when applicable.
- Promote academic and extracurricular programs.
- Share post-secondary opportunities, including dual enrollment, fee waivers, and funding for graduation-related expenses.
- Collaborate with the student's education decision-maker as needed.
- Partner with DSS and community organizations to increase awareness of students' academic and non-academic needs.

### Collaboration: Departments Of Social Services (DSS)

- Provide DSS with the LEA POC's contact information; share LEA policies and procedures pertaining to students.
- Establish and maintain protocols with DSS to ensure ongoing communication regarding students' academic progression.
- Ensure LEA staff participation in all BID meetings.
- Coordinate with DSS and LEA transportation staff to secure school of origin transportation.
- Develop and annually review Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and transportation agreements.
- Maintain a data tracking system for identifications, service provisions, and interagency data sharing (in compliance with FERPA).
- Participate in cross-systems meetings and trainings to strengthen partnerships.

### Knowledge & Compliance

- Stay informed of all federal and state mandates affecting students in foster care.
- Regularly review LEA policies to ensure compliance with Title I and ESSA provisions.
- Maintain documentation of processes, training, and interagency agreements.

<https://ncfcep.uncg.edu/>