

Part D.

In alignment with the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** and [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\)](#) requirements, the **School District of Thorp** maintains specific procedures to ensure the educational stability of students in out-of-home care (foster care).

D.1. Transportation Procedures for Students in Out-of-Home Care

The district coordinates with **Child Welfare Agencies (CWA)** to ensure students placed in out-of-home care can remain in their school of origin when it is in their best interest.

- **Provision and Arrangement:**
 - **Collaboration:** The District Foster Care Point of Contact (typically the District Administrator or a designee) works with the CWA's Education Point of Contact to arrange transportation.
 - **Methods:** Options include adding the student to an existing bus route, modifying current routes, or utilizing specialized transport (taxis or private services) if no-cost solutions are unavailable.
- **Effective Timeline:**
 - **Immediate Action:** Transportation must be provided, arranged, and funded **promptly/immediately** to prevent any disruption in the student's education.
 - **Interim Support:** While a permanent plan is being finalized, the CWA and LEA often share responsibility for temporary transportation.
- **Funding and Additional Costs:**
 - **Cost Definition:** "Additional costs" refer to the excess expenses beyond what the district would normally pay to transport a student to their assigned school.
 - **Funding Sources:** These costs may be funded via **Title I set-aside funds**, shared costs with the CWA, or through agreements where the CWA covers the difference.
- **Documentation and Signatures:**
 - Procedures require a **dated signature** from both an LEA representative (e.g., District Administrator) and a CWA representative to demonstrate collaborative agreement.

To fulfill the requirements for **Section D.1**, you can use the following template based on [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\)](#) model procedures and [ESSA guidelines](#).

Foster Care Student Transportation Plan Template

I. Student Information

- **Student Name:** _____
- **School of Origin:** _____
- **Foster Placement Address:** _____

- **Placement Type:** (e.g., Foster Home, Group Home, Kinship)

II. Provision and Arrangement

Describe how transportation will be provided and who is responsible for arranging it:

- ☐ **Existing Route:** Student will be added to a current bus route with no additional cost.
- ☐ **Modified Route:** An existing bus route will be extended or diverted.
- ☐ **CWA Provided:** The foster parent or caseworker will provide transport with mileage reimbursement.
- ☐ **Contracted Service:** The LEA or CWA will contract with a third-party vendor (e.g., specialized van or taxi).

III. Timeline for Implementation

- **Immediate Transportation:** Interim transportation will begin on (Date) _____ to ensure no disruption in schooling.
- **Permanent Plan:** The long-term transportation plan will be fully implemented within **5 school days** of the Best Interest Determination.

IV. Funding and Additional Costs

"Additional costs" are expenses that exceed what the district would normally spend to transport a student to their assigned school.

- ☐ **LEA Pays:** The school district will cover all additional costs.
- ☐ **CWA Pays:** The child welfare agency will reimburse the LEA for all additional costs.
- ☐ **Shared Costs:** The LEA and CWA agree to share costs as follows:
_____ (e.g., 50/50 split).

V. Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises regarding transportation funding, the student will remain in the school of origin with transportation provided and funded by (LEA/CWA/Both) _____ until a resolution is reached.

VI. Collaborative Agreement (Signatures Required)

- **LEA Representative Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____
- **CWA Representative Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Implementation Evidence Checklist (for D.1 & D.2)

To demonstrate "fidelity of implementation," maintain the following records in your compliance file:

- **Completed BID Worksheets:** Dated copies for every student in out-of-home care.

- **Invoices and Reimbursement Logs:** Documentation showing Title I set-aside or CWA funds used for transport.
- **Enrollment Time-Stamps:** Proof that students were enrolled within 24 hours of placement.
- **Records Request Logs:** Copies of immediate requests to previous schools for academic and health records.