

# Chickasha Public Schools Foster Care Plan

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) enacted on December 10, 2015 requires each state and local education agency to develop a plan to ensure the educational stability of students in foster care. This plan is intended to eliminate barriers that may prevent children and youth in foster care from meeting the challenging state standards and experiencing educational success. This plan will ensure that students at Chickasha Public Schools placed in foster care will be provided the same free, appropriate public education provided to all children in the state of Oklahoma and Chickasha Public Schools.

## **Foster Care Point of Contact:**

Chickasha Public Schools will designate a Foster Care point of contact for the district. This person shall be designated by the Superintendent of schools, and disseminated to all stakeholders who meet the designation of Foster Care placement by the Director of Federal Programs. This point of contact will serve as the liaison between the Department of Human Services point-of-contact, Foster Parents, the School District, and other Districts involved in ensuring the students education is not interrupted. The point of contact will coordinate and facilitate the following:

- ensure that immediate enrollment takes place for these students
- collaborative meeting between all stakeholders to determine the best interest determination for placement of the foster care student
- obtain and transfer custody and educational records between foster parents/DHS and other districts within 72 hours
- work with the Director of Transportation to coordinate transportation for these students within the district and between neighboring districts.

## **Enrollment:**

Children in foster care will be allowed to immediately enroll in their school of origin or their school of residence without proper documentation (i.e. birth certificate, shot records, or guardianship documents.) The foster care point of contact will then work with the foster parents or Department of Human Services to obtain these documents.

### **Collaboration/Best Determination Meeting:**

Chickasha Public Schools will coordinate a meeting within 72 hours of a student's enrollment with all parties necessary including but not limited to: the resident school district, school of origin, foster parents, DHS, administrators, and teachers to determine the school of best interest for the student. The committee will use the designated form in this plan to guide the conversation and make the appropriate determination. The determination will take into consideration the following:

- The wishes of the child
- The wishes of the foster care family
- The wishes of DHS
- The distance and time required for travel
- The safety of the child
- Any applicable services available at the school of residence compared to the school of origin

### **Transportation:**

Transportation for children in foster care will be provided by the foster family, DHS, or Chickasha Public Schools utilizing the most cost effective means to do so. In the event transportation will be an additional cost one of the following will be used to pay for this expense:

- DHS agrees to reimburse the district for the cost
- Chickasha Schools agrees to pay the cost to transport
- Chickasha Schools and the other district agree to split the cost
- Chickasha Schools and DHS agree to split the cost

In the event of a dispute about who is responsible for the cost associated with the transportation of a foster care student, Chickasha Public Schools will provide transportation until a resolution can be reached between organizations.