

**Alabama Education Stability for Foster Students
LEA Plan Template**

LEA Student in Foster Care Overview

Number of Students in Foster Care SY 2021 - 2022 (Enrolled for Previous School Year): 5

Number of Students in Foster Care SY 2022 - 2023: (Enrolled for Previous School Year) 3

Number of Students in Foster Care SY 2023 - 2024 (Currently Enrolled): 7

List Agencies in Collaboration:

Kandace VanWanderham – Hoover City Schools, Mental Health and Student Support Specialist
Dorann Tanner – Alabaster City Schools, Chief Student Services Officer
Missy Brooks – Mountain Brook Schools, Director of Instruction and Special Education
Monique Lewis – Shelby County DHR
Beth Fuller – Shelby County Schools, Federal Programs Supervisor
Kiana Coleman – Homewood City Schools, Director of Student Services
Randall Reeves – Pelham City Schools, Special Education Coordinator
Sharon McGinnis/Regina Weatherby – Jefferson County DHR
Jennifer Bailey – Vestavia Hills City Schools, Director of Student Services

Policy Review and Revision (Describe how each agency in collaboration reviewed policies and the revisions made to policies as a result of reviews.)

Mountain Brook City Schools emailed collaborating LEA's and DHR to arrange a meeting to discuss plans. The collaborating team meeting was on June 27th, 2023 at 10:30 am at the Hoover City School's Board of Education. Each LEA reviewed and edited their previously developed foster care plan, collaborating with LEAs/agencies, and made the necessary adjustments.

Describe Collaboration and Coordination with Agencies (Include a list of team members, positions, signatures, and agencies.):

Collaborated via emails and an in-person meeting on June 27th, 2023, for discussion and signatures:

Kandace VanWanderham – Hoover City Schools, Mental Health and Student Support Specialist
Dorann Tanner – Alabaster City Schools, Chief Student Services Officer
Missy Brooks – Mountain Brook Schools, Director of Instruction and Special Education
Monique Lewis – Shelby County DHR
Beth Fuller – Shelby County Schools, Federal Programs Supervisor
Kiana Coleman – Homewood City Schools, Director of Student Services
Randall Reeves – Pelham City Schools, Special Education Coordinator
Sharon McGinnis/Regina Weatherby – Jefferson County DHR
Jennifer Bailey – Vestavia Hills City Schools, Director of Student Services

LEA(s) Point(s) of Contact:

Kevin Maddox

Assistant Superintendent

Homewood City Schools

450 Dale Avenue

Homewood, Al

205-870-4203

Kiana Coleman

Director of Student Services

Homewood City Schools

450 Dale Avenue

Homewood, Al

205-870-4203

DHR(s) Point(s) of Contact:

Sharon McGinnis

Jefferson County DHR

2001 12th Avenue North

Birmingham, Al 35234

205-423-4479/ 205-423-4516

2 C. F. R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. §76.770; ESSA SECTION 1111(1)(e) - LEAs must implement the Title I educational stability requirements of children in foster care, including ensuring that:

- A child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in that child's best interest;
- If it is not in the child's best interest to stay in his or her school of origin the child is immediately enrolled in the new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment; and
- That the new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin, to obtain relevant academic and other records.

Describe procedures for implementing the above provisions.

Homewood City Schools will collaborate as necessary with State and tribal child welfare agencies to implement the Title I educational stability provisions. Homewood City Schools will work closely with child welfare agency counterparts to tailor procedures to the unique local context as well as to the child's best interest. Homewood City Schools will provide training to registrars, counselors, school administrators, and others regarding the procedures for enrolling foster care students.

ESSA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) – A description of how the LEA in collaboration with the local child welfare agency will ensure that in determining whether it is in the child's best interest to remain in his or her school of origin, and LEA takes into consideration all factors relating to a child's best interest.

Description of how the LEA will work with child welfare agencies to develop a clear policy or protocol on how to make best interest determinations including making every effort to gather meaningful input from relevant parties, in addition to required child welfare and school representatives, in deciding what school placement is in a child's best interest. Include a description of protocols in this description.

On a case-by-case basis and in a timely manner, Homewood City Schools will consult with DHR and others (to include, but not limited to and if appropriate, parent/legal guardian, school administrator or designee, school counselor, 504 or Special Education case manager, DHR liaison, school foster care liaison, teacher(s) and student if appropriate) to determine whether it is in the best interest of a student to remain in their school of origin. Factors considered may include: -Preferences of the student -Preferences of the child's parent(s) or education decision-maker(s) -The child's attachment to the school, including meaningful relationships with staff -Placement of the student's siblings -The availability and quality of the services in the school to meet the child's educational and social/emotional needs -Extra curricula or co-curricular activities -History of school transfers -How distance/length of the commute may impact the child -School climate/safety -Time of year as it relates to the school calendar -Whether the student is identified as a student with a disability under IDEA or Section 504 or is receiving EL services.

Other supporting documentation including school records may be considered for best interest determination.

ESSA Section 1112(c)(5)(B) Description of transportation protocols and procedures to include how additional costs for transportation will be calculated and funded as well as a policy for LEAs to resolve best interest disputes and interagency disputes related to transportation costs. Description must include how transportation and transportation costs will be monitored. (Include LEA and welfare responsibilities for providing transportation.)

Description of Dispute Resolution Policy

The cost of transportation is not a factor in determining the child's best interest. Homewood City Schools does not have student transportation buses and will therefore communicate with the school of origin as well as DHR and any other relevant parties to determine a transportation plan, cost, and funding source. Monitoring will be measured via attendance records, receipts, invoices, etc. Utilize the process in Foster Care Dispute Resolution Plan for transportation disputes as needed.

ESSA Section 111(g)(1)(E)(ii)-(iii) Describe protocol for a child in foster care to be immediately enrolled in a new school.

Upon notification by DHR and/or foster parents, the enrollment process will begin as soon as possible. Enrollment must not be denied or delayed. The enrolling school must immediately contact the student's school of origin to obtain the relevant records and documentation. The school of origin should immediately transfer those records. In addition, the enrolling school will work with DHR caseworkers and foster parents to obtain necessary records as soon as possible. The school should also ensure that children in foster care regularly attend and participate in school and that their educational needs are being met.

