

Supporting Students in Foster Care

Local School District Liaison Duties, Roles, and Responsibilities

In Ohio, each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society. Equity is the greatest imperative and number one principle in Ohio's strategic plan, [Each Child, Our Future](#). Students in foster care face additional barriers and need greater access to whole child supports to be successful.

Like *Each Child Our Future*, the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) prioritizes the educational stability for vulnerable populations by requiring districts and community schools to have designated points of contact for each vulnerable population. Having a point of contact available for students in foster care can increase collaboration between the school and child welfare agency, facilitate supports for students and families and streamline communication. Ohio's ESSA plan requires every district and community school to identify a single point of contact for students in foster care.

The local school district foster care liaison should ensure the following for each child in foster care:

- Coordination with the child welfare agency point of contact;
- Development of a process for making best interest determinations;
- Documentation of the best interest determination for each student in foster care;
- Facilitation of the transfer of records and immediate enrollment;
- Facilitation of data sharing with child welfare agencies;
- Development and coordination of local transportation procedures;
- Management of best interest determination and transportation cost disputes;
- Enrollment and regular attendance in school;
- Professional development and training to school staff.

In addition to the duties listed above, each local school district foster care point of contact should keep in mind that serving the whole child—through connections to counseling, trusted adults, wraparound services and other supports is critical. [Ohio's Whole Child Framework](#) can be used to ensure all aspects of a child's well-being are addressed, including the physical, social, emotional and intellectual aspects.

For more information and resources, please visit the Ohio Department of Education's [Foster Care webpage](#). For questions, contact fostercare@education.ohio.gov.