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Foster Care: Transportation

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1112(c)(5)(B), the Foster Care Plan was implemented to provide key protections for foster care students and to promote educational stability and success in collaboration with child welfare partners and tribal agencies.

Some foster care children will need transportation provided at an additional cost. Some examples of transportation with associated costs are:
• A foster parent, relative or other adult provides transportation but needs reimbursement for mileage;
• An agency provides the youth or caretaker with bus passes or other public transportation vouchers;
• An agency contracts with a private transportation company to provide a bus/van/car.

USDE guidelines:

Even if an LEA does not transport other students, it must ensure that transportation is provided to children in foster care.

Transportation must be provided in a "cost-effective" manner so low-cost/no-cost options should be explored:

• Pre-existing bus stops or public transportation; and
• Child is eligible for transportation by other programs (e.g. IDEA).

"Additional costs" represent the difference between what an LEA would normally spend on transportation to the child's assigned school and the cost of transportation to the school of origin.

Examples of additional costs are:

• An LEA provides the youth or caretaker with bus passes or other public transportation vouchers;
• An agency contracts with a private transportation company to provide a bus/van/car; and
• A school district reroutes, or adds a bus to its fleet, to accommodate the transportation needs of children in foster care.

Title I is an allowable funding source, although funds reserved for comparable services for homeless children and youth may not be used for transportation of foster care children.

If you have questions, contact Naomi Ward in the Office of Federal Programs at naomi.ward@sde.ok.gov or (405) 522-3218.

Neglected and Delinquent (Title I, Part A-Neglected and Title I, Part D)

The two federally funded grants intended to improve educational services for children and youth in local, tribal, and State institutions for neglected and delinquent children and youth are Title I, Part A-Neglected, and Title I, Part D. Funds provided under
Title I, Part D are allocated separately to State Agencies (Subpart 1), and to Local Education Agencies (Subpart 2).

Allocations for both **Title I, Part A-Neglected** and **Title I, Part D** are based on the data gathered through the Annual Neglected and Delinquent Survey (October Count) carried out each year during the month of October. Forms for that survey are being collected now and will serve to determine FY22 allocations (if you have not yet returned this year’s form, please do so as soon as possible).

**Title I, Part A-Neglected** funds are to be used to provide services to neglected children and youths comparable to the services provided in Title I schools. These children are defined as those who have been placed in a facility due to abandonment, neglect, or the death of their parents or guardians. Roughly 3,000 children are served in Oklahoma each year by facilities for neglected children.

**Title I, Part D** funds are to be used not only to provide educational services to children and youth in an institutional setting, but also to provide those children and youth with the services needed to make a successful transition from institutionalization to further schooling and/or employment. **Title I, Part D** funds can also be used to help prevent at-risk youth from dropping out of school, and to provide dropouts and those returning from correctional facilities with a support system to ensure their continued education. Roughly 4,000 children and youths are served each year in Oklahoma by programs for delinquent or at-risk youth.

If you have any questions regarding programs for neglected and/or delinquent students, feel free to contact Thomas Kirk at Thomas.Kirk@sde.ok.gov.

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