

Kansans **CAN**



# Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

December 7, 2016 Hot Topics

# Children in Foster Care

- As of December 10, 2016, children “awaiting foster care placement” will be removed from the definition of “homeless children and youth”.
- On December 10, children in foster care, and those awaiting placement will fall under Title I educational stability provisions.



# Key Provisions: Points of Contact

## State and Local Points of Contact

- LEAs must provide an assurance that they will designate a Point of Contact (POC) for the corresponding Child Welfare Agency if the CWA notifies the LEA, in writing, that it has designated a POC.

Some of you may have already been contacted by the contractors for DCF.

# Points of Contact

KSDE would suggest that each district designate a POC as soon as possible, even if local CWAs haven't notified the LEA in writing. (Some districts may already have building level contacts that have relationships with caseworkers. It may be beneficial to maintain those contacts and have them report to the district POC)

- Responsibilities of POC
  - Coordinate with local CWAs to develop a process for implementing ESSA provisions.
  - Lead development of best interest determination process.
  - Facilitate the transfer of records and immediate enrollment and data sharing with CWAs.
  - Developing and coordinating local transportation procedures.

# Designating a POC

If you decide to designate a POC at this time, please send the following information to Dane Shobe, [dshobe@ksde.org](mailto:dshobe@ksde.org) , so that we may begin compiling a list.

- USD #
- USD Name
- USD Address
- POC Name
- POC e-mail
- POC phone #

Title the e-mail POC Information.

# Key Provisions: School of Origin

- Children in foster care remain in school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in his or her best interest.
- If an LEA offers a public preschool program, the Title I requirements for school of origin apply.



# Best Interest Determination (BID)

- BID will be initiated by the case worker. In an emergent situation BID may involve the caseworker and POC, or POC's designee.
- The relevant agencies should make every effort to reach agreement regarding the appropriate school placement of children in foster care.
- The caseworker will make a written record of the BID and send it to the [POC, POC's designee, or other school contact if the case worker already has a relationship with a school worker].
- If there is disagreement regarding school placement for a child in foster care, the child welfare agency should be considered the final decision maker in making the best interest determination.

# Who should/could be involved in BID?

- Child.
- Child welfare case manager (case worker) or designee
- LEA point of contact for children in foster care (POC)
- Foster parents.
- Biological parents when appropriate.
- Educational decision makers.
- Special Education staff.
- Regular Education staff. (Teacher, coach, counselor, etc.)
- EL staff.



# Best Interest Determination (BID) factors to consider

- Child preference. KSDE and DCF recommendation.
- Child safety.
- Parent preference.
- Child's attachment to the school.
- Placement of siblings.
- Influence of school climate.
- Availability and Quality of Services.
- Transportation considerations.
- IEP and 504 plan services.
- EL Language services.



# Transportation Considerations

- Duration- (30 minutes/30miles, or 60 minutes/60 miles as a reasonable starting point)
- Age of child.
- Time of placement change. (Is it Day 30 or Day 160 of school year? End of semester?)
- Type of transportation available.
- Traffic patterns.
- Flexibility in school schedule.
- Impact of extracurricular activities on transportation options.
- Maturity and behavioral capacity of child.

# Dispute Resolution for placement?

- DCF has established a process for dispute resolution that will be posted on the KSDE website.

# School of Origin not in Best Interest

- If it is in the best interest of the child to leave the school of origin, the child must be immediately enrolled in the new school, even if they don't have the required documentation. The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended to obtain the child's records. (Please see joint letter from Commissioner Watson and Secretary Gilmore posted on the KSDE website spelling out record sharing goals)

# Student Record Exchange (SRE) Overview

SRE is available free of charge to all districts to facilitate secure and efficient electronic exchange of student records as students move between schools in Kansas.

SRE takes advantage of KSDE's common authentication system and a method for encrypting information over the internet to provide an efficient, safe and secure way to send and receive student records.

# SRE Users

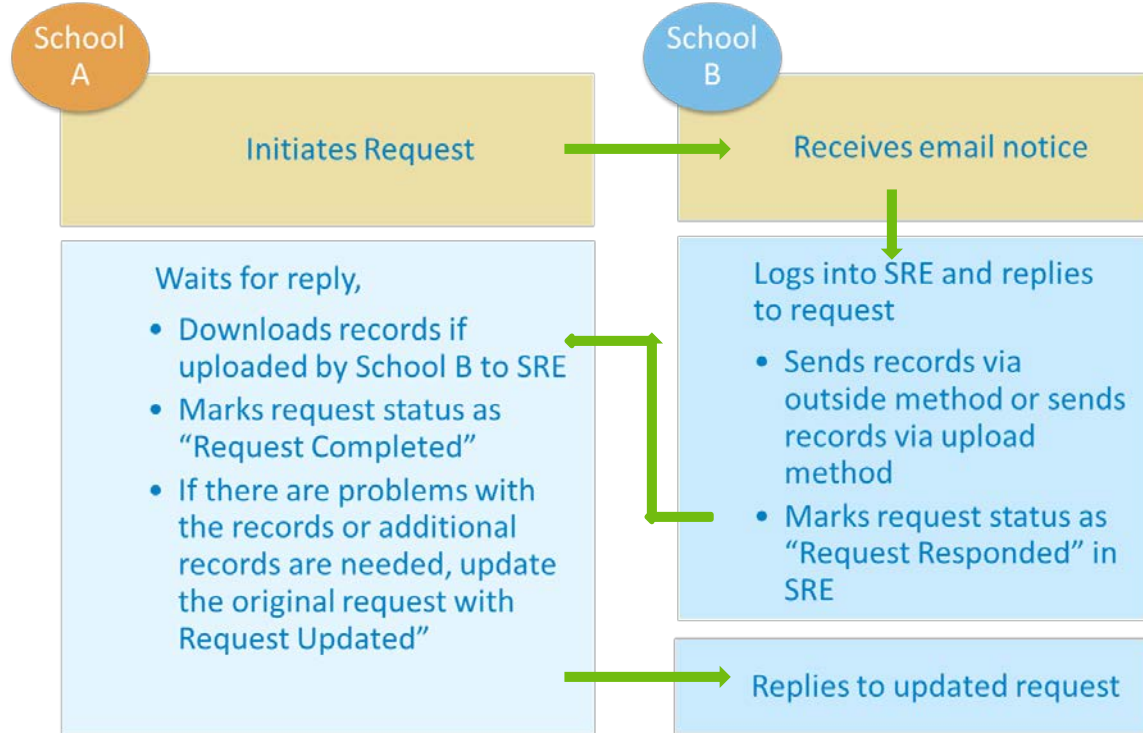
SRE is available for use by the following building types:

- Public schools
- Private schools
- Service centers
- Special education cooperatives and interlocals

# SRE Contact

- The Directory Updates system contains an SRE Contact for each building in each district. (The system defaults to the building principal.)
- The email for the SRE Contact is where the alert is sent indicating that activity has occurred in SRE for that building.
- Contacts must request access through the authenticated application, which will be approved by the superintendent.

# SRE Overview: Request Process Flow





Who do I contact when I  
have questions?

SRE



# SRE Summary

Contact the SRE helpdesk email account [sre@ksde.org](mailto:sre@ksde.org) or KSDE Help Desk 785-296-7935 with questions.



# SRE Summary

Website: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=884>

- SRE User's Guide
- SRE: Gaining Access to Common Authentication
- Quick Start Guide to SRE





# Key Provisions: Transportation

## Transportation

If school of origin is determined to be in the best interest of the child:

- Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must collaborate with Child Welfare Agencies (CWAs) to develop and implement clear written procedures to ensure transportation will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of a child's time in foster care.

(ESEA section 1112(c)(5)(B))



# Transportation

- Children in foster care needing transportation to their schools of origin will promptly receive that transportation in a cost effective manner.
- If there are **additional** costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the LEA will provide transportation if (1) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of **such transportation**; (2) the LEA agrees to pay for the cost of **such transportation**; or (3) the LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of **such transportation**.

# Additional costs

- The difference between what an LEA otherwise would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school and the cost of transporting a child in foster care to his or her school of origin.
- For the last year that figures are available, the state average cost of operating a school bus was \$3.11/mile. We would suggest using this figure as a baseline for determining additional cost.

# No-cost/Low-cost options

- Child dropped off at a school bus stop near an existing transportation system for the school of origin.
- Public transportation options exist.
- Foster parents are willing and able to transport.
- Pre-existing bus routes or stops close to the new foster care placement that cross district boundaries.
- Child eligible for transportation covered by other programs.

# Dispute Resolution

- A child must remain in his or her school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved.
- Transportation must continue to be provided to school of origin while disputes are reconciled.
- A dispute resolution process will be posted to the website.



# Children in Foster Care

- Currently, KSDE and DCF are collaborating to finalize guidance and procedures to meet the ESSA Educational Stability requirements of Title I.
- Documents are being posted on the KSDE website <http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Early-Childhood-Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Title-Services/Foster-Children> and we will continue to update as they become available.

# Foster Care Points of Contact

KSDE:

Doug Boline

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785-296-2600

DCF:

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