**STIDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL FOSTER CARE PLAN**

1. **LEA Point of Contact and responsibilities;**

The foster care point of contact at Stidham School will be the Superintendent or a designee which may be the same person designated as the homeless liaison. Stidham School will submit this person’s name to OSDE, through the online Grants Management System, by September 30 of each year. Considering the roles and responsibilities of the POC, Stidham School will ensure that the assigned person will have the capacity to fulfill his or her duties and the necessary resources to implement the Title I foster care requirements.

Some of the *roles and responsibilities* of the LEA POC may include:

• Coordinating with the corresponding child welfare agency POC on the implementation of the Title I provisions;

• Leading the development of a process for making the best interest determination;

• Documenting the best interest determination;

• Facilitating the transfer of records and immediate enrollment;

• Facilitating data sharing with the child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols;

• Developing and coordinating local transportation procedures;

• Managing best interest determinations and transportation cost disputes;

• Ensuring that children in foster care are enrolled in and regularly attending school; and

• Providing professional development and training to school staff on the Title I provisions and educational needs of children in foster care, as needed.

1. **Decision-making process;**

A committee consisting of the Superintendent or representative as POC and a member of the CWA will meet to determine the child’s best interestand the appropriate placement of foster care children. Stidham Public School is a one school district. 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 (unless State law or policy dictates otherwise). The child welfare agency is uniquely positioned to assess vital non-educational factors such as safety, sibling placements, the child’s permanency goal and other components of the case plan. The child welfare agency also has the authority, capacity and responsibility to collaborate with and gain information from multiple parties, including parents, children, schools and the court in making these decisions.

1. **The type of documentation or records that should be shared between parties;**

Foster care children may be brought to school for enrollment by their foster care parents, social workers or other legal guardians. The LEA has the obligation to immediately enroll these children in school. After immediate enrollment, the following guardianship or legal custody documents shall be provided for verification:

* 1. Power of Attorney
  2. Affidavit
  3. Court Order

Stidham Public School District will share education records with the CWA that are allowed by the Family Educational Rights a Privacy Act (FERPA) and other state privacy laws. This allows education agencies to disclose without parental consent education records, including IDEA, of students in foster care to the CWA

1. **Collaborative structure, such as regularly scheduled meetings, in which relevant individuals can participate in a particular process;**

The POC will meet with the site administrator, school counselor, classroom teacher, and foster parent as needed to discuss the progress of the child in foster care and will document the results of meetings. All decisions will be made utilizing a collaborative team approach to determine what will be in the best interest of the child.

1. **The best interest determination document regarding the child’s school placement (school of origin or the receiving school);**

Stidham Public School District shall utilize the following sample form from the Oklahoma State Department of Education in making a “best interest” determination for each child in foster care. The final determination as to what is in the best interest of the child will be made by the CWA.



**STIDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

113074 S 4110 Rd Eufaula, OK 74432 phone 918-689-5241 fax 918-689-9163

Angelia Yandell, Superintendent

Best Interest Determination Evaluation

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Child’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Age:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Current District:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Current Site:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *Student will remain in the current school unless consideration of the following factors indicates a change of school placement is in the child’s best interest (check all that apply.)* | | | | |
|  | School of Origin  ( A ) | Receiving School  (B) | Other Previous School Attended  (C) | |
| Which school will better meet the relational needs of the child?  Select all that apply:   * Siblings * Relationships with peers * Relationships with staff   Describe the relationship connections at current school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  List strategies for maintaining important connections should other best interest determination be made: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  | |
| Which school will better meet the individual academic needs and challenges of the child? Select all that apply:   * IEP * 504 Plan * Gifted Program * Career Tech * EL Services |  |  |  | |
| Which school will better meet the social/emotional needs and challenges of the child?  Select all that apply:   * Social * Emotional * Safety |  |  |  | |
| Which school will better meet the unique needs and interests of the child? Select all that apply:   * Extracurricular Activities * Sports * Other   Student will describe the areas of desired school involvement:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Which school will best meet the permanency goal and likelihood of reunification with parents or siblings? |  |  |  | |
| Which school is more appropriate for the child’s age and length of travel?  Explain:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  | |
| Describe the child’s transfer history.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Which school does the student prefer to attend?  Explain:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  | |
| Which school does the caregiver or current placement provider recommends the student attend? Explain:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  | |
| Identify strategies for successful transition to new school and/or support in current school:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Supporting Documentation  Attach any supporting documentation used to determine best interest of child:   * Report Cards * Progress Reports * Achievement Data (test scores) * Attendance Data * IEP or Section 504 Plans * Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Determination  *Based on the information provided and considering the best interest of the child, the team has determined the following school is the most appropriate educational placement for the child:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  Team Members:  LEA representative:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *Printed name Signature*  CWA representative:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *Printed name Signature*  Education Decision Maker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *Printed name Signature*  Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *Printed name Signature* | | | |  |

1. **Transportation procedures;**

Children in foster care will be entitled to transportation services in the same manner as all other children in the school district. In addition to regular transportation routes, the school district will collaborate with the CWA when transportation is required to maintain children placed in foster care in a school of origin outside their usual attendance area or district when it is in the best interest of the student.

Under the supervision of the superintendent, the POC will invite appropriate district officials, the CWA, and officials from other districts or agencies to promptly arrange cost-effect transportation and for the costs related to student transportation;

1. **Responsibilities and costs related to student transportation;**

Foster children will be transported to Stidham School District In accordance with ESSA, Section 1112(5)(B)“If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin, the local educational agency will provide transportation to the school.

1. **Clear, written policies that will remove barriers to immediate enrollment and record transfers for children in foster care.**

Stidham School utilizes the OSSBA policy FD for Student Residency to address the unique situations of children in foster care to eliminate and barriers to enrollment or transfer of educational records