

FY27 Foster Care Transportation Plan

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Discovery Regional High School

Superintendent Name Dr. Rowland Cummings

Mailing Address 221 North Robinson Street

Physical Address (if different from above) _____

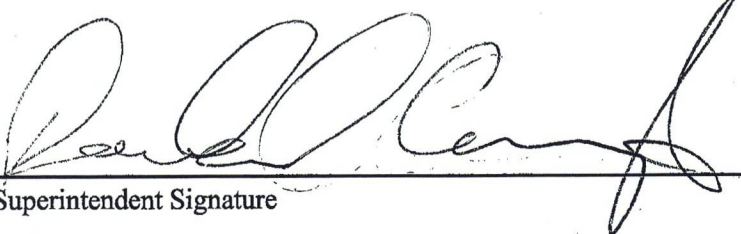
City Lenox Zip 31637

Foster Care Point of
Contact (POC) Name Dr. Christina Sneed POC Email christina.sneed@discoveryregional.org

POC Mailing Address 221 North Robinson Street

City Lenox Zip 31637

POC Telephone (229) 514-0862 POC Fax _____


Superintendent Signature

July 28, 2026
Date

Dr. Rowland Cummings
Print Name of Superintendent

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The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is required to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)). In coordination with state and tribal child welfare agencies, GaDOE must ensure that its LEAs implement the Title I educational stability requirements for 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 (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)-(iii)). In fulfilling this role, the SEA should coordinate with the state or tribal child welfare agency to develop and disseminate uniform guidelines for implementing the Title I educational stability provisions. Developing uniform statewide policies and procedures for ensuring educational stability for children in foster care, as many States have already done under the Fostering Connections Act, will facilitate successful implementation at the local level. This is particularly important given the shared agency responsibility for educational stability under Title I and the Fostering Connections Act, and because a single LEA or local child welfare agency will likely have to collaborate with multiple partner agencies in implementing these provisions.

Additionally, the SEA must conduct regular monitoring and oversight to guarantee appropriate implementation of these provisions at the local level. (See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. § 76.770).

On the state level, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), which houses the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), periodically sends a list of children in foster care that are flagged in GaDOE's student information system for information sharing and reporting purposes. On the local level, LEAs are now able to retrieve a list of children in foster care to better identify and provide services. LEAs are to continue collaborating with their local child welfare agencies and may periodically receive information directly from foster parents, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), DFCS case workers, or Education Support Monitors (ESM), within the Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) unit of DFCS. Once identified, LEAs must implement its plan to ensure educational stability for children in care. For the best interest of the children in care, LEAs should follow all mandated regulations under FERPA and keep the status of these children confidential.

As a result, GaDOE is requiring all LEAs, including virtual schools and charter schools that function as an LEA, to complete a Foster Care Transportation Plan. The plan should be completed in addition to the development and implementation of written transportation procedures and the identification of a Foster Care Point of Contact. Please complete this plan and return it by:

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Instructions for submission:

- After the LEA superintendent signs the assurances, scan the entire document as a PDF and save it as the "FY27 Foster Care Transportation Plan".
- Upload the signed PDF version of the document to the CLIP online portal via the Consolidated Application for FY27.

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NOTE: In order to answer the questions below, refer to the [Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability and Success for Students in Foster Care](#).

I. Foster Care Transportation Plan: PLANNING

A. The LEA's role is to have a transportation plan in place for children in foster care to their school of origin. Describe your plan to:

1. Coordinate transportation with the local child welfare agency.
2. Implement steps to be taken if additional costs are incurred.
3. Execute the local dispute resolution process.

Include the roles of key players (e.g. LEA Foster Care Point of Contact, LEA Superintendent, LEA Federal Program Director, EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor, Case Worker, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Juvenile Court representative, etc.)

Discovery Regional High School collaborates with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Education Support Monitors (EPAC), foster care case managers, participating school districts, and other appropriate stakeholders to ensure educational stability for students in foster care. Because Discovery Regional High School is a regional charter completion school and does not operate transportation services, the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) coordinates with partner districts and transportation providers to arrange transportation when remaining in the school of origin is determined to be in the student's best interest. The Superintendent provides oversight to ensure compliance with ESSA requirements. The Federal Programs Director supports implementation, monitoring, and documentation. The Foster Care POC facilitates communication, maintains records, coordinates transportation needs, and supports dispute resolution. If additional costs are incurred, the LEA collaborates with the child welfare agency and appropriate partners to determine financial responsibilities consistent with ESSA. If a dispute occurs, the Foster Care POC will convene appropriate stakeholders, including DFCS representatives, school personnel, transportation partners, and other applicable agencies, while ensuring transportation continues until the matter is resolved.

B. What steps should an LEA and local child welfare agency take to ensure that transportation is provided immediately, even if they face difficulty reaching agreement on how to pay for additional transportation costs?

Discovery Regional High School does not operate transportation services; therefore, transportation needs for students in foster care are addressed through collaboration with participating school districts, partner transportation providers, DFCS, and other appropriate stakeholders. When transportation is required for a student to remain in the school of origin, the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact will immediately coordinate with the appropriate transportation provider to arrange services to the designated instructional site. If there is difficulty reaching agreement regarding additional transportation costs, the LEA and child welfare agency will continue transportation services while financial responsibilities are being resolved. All parties will collaborate in good faith to determine cost-sharing responsibilities consistent with ESSA requirements. The student's educational stability and best interest will remain the priority throughout the process.

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- C. The LEA must designate a Foster Care Point of Contact that coordinates with the local child welfare agency. Describe the point of contact's role and responsibilities.

The Discovery Regional High School Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) serves as the primary liaison between the LEA, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Education Support Monitors (EPAC), foster care case managers, participating school districts, and other appropriate stakeholders. The POC is responsible for identifying students in foster care, facilitating communication regarding educational stability, participating in best-interest determinations, coordinating transportation needs, and ensuring students remain connected to their school of origin when appropriate. Because Discovery Regional High School is a regional charter completion school and does not operate transportation services, the POC collaborates with partner districts and transportation providers to arrange transportation when needed. The POC maintains required documentation, ensures confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and applicable child welfare requirements, supports timely enrollment and records transfer, assists with dispute resolution, and monitors implementation of foster care requirements under ESSA.

II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS

- A. If a child is placed within the LEA's school attendance area and projected transportation cost are negligible, transportation should be immediately provided without supplemental assistance from the local child welfare agency. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the LEA will provide transportation to the school of origin if:

	YES	NO	N/A
1. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation.		NO	
2. The LEA agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation.		N/A	
3. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.		YES	

Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs.

Discovery Regional High School does not operate transportation services; therefore, transportation needs for students in foster care are coordinated through collaboration with participating school districts, partner transportation providers, DFCS, and other appropriate stakeholders. When additional transportation costs are incurred to maintain a student in the school of origin, Discovery will collaborate with the local child welfare agency and applicable partners to determine an appropriate and cost-effective arrangement for addressing transportation expenses. The LEA and child welfare agency will work in good faith to establish shared responsibility when applicable, consistent with ESSA requirements and the student's best interest. Transportation services will not be delayed while cost responsibilities are being determined or resolved.

- B. All LEAs must meet the requirement to provide transportation for children who are in foster care to their schools of origin (Similar to the McKinney-Vento requirement for students experiencing homelessness). Does your LEA currently provide transportation services? If no, describe your plan to meet this mandate.

NO

Discovery Regional High School does not operate transportation services or maintain a district-owned transportation system. As a regional charter completion school serving students from participating school districts, Discovery maintains procedures to ensure transportation requirements for students in foster care are addressed when transportation to the school of origin is necessary. The LEA Foster Care Point of Contact will collaborate with the student's resident school district, partner transportation departments, DFCS case manager, Education Support Monitor (EPAC), and other appropriate stakeholders to coordinate

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transportation to the designated instructional site. Discovery will ensure transportation needs are addressed promptly and in a cost-effective manner when remaining in the school of origin is determined to be in the student's best interest. Transportation will not be delayed due to unresolved cost discussions, and the LEA will maintain documentation of transportation arrangements and related communications.

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ASSURANCES

By checking the box beside each statement and by affixing my signature to these Assurances, I certify that I have read each and agree to be held accountable for the content of each of the following statements:

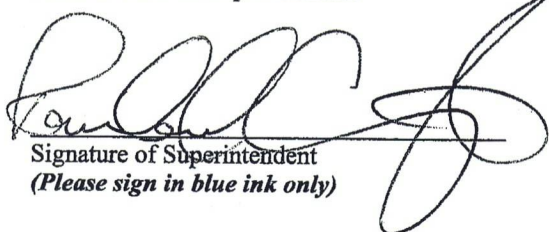
- ☒ The LEA will collaborate with state or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of time in foster care.
- ☒ The LEA ensures that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin promptly receive such transportation in a cost-effective manner.
- ☒ The LEA ensures that children in foster care remain in the school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved.
- ☒ The LEA will collaborate with State or local child welfare agency to provide transportation if a child is placed in foster care placement across district, county, or State lines.
- ☒ In accordance to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Fostering Connections Act, the LEA will continue to provide transportation to children that exited foster care for the remainder of the school year, if it is in the best interest of the student.

I am authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of the applicant. My signature certifies that all information included in the application is accurate. I understand that all information submitted is subject to verification.

Discovery Regional High School
LEA Name

Dr. Rowland Cummings
Printed Name of Superintendent

Superintendent
Title


Signature of Superintendent
(Please sign in blue ink only)

July 28, 2026
Date