**ESSA Procedures**

**School of Origin Input, Best Interest Determination, & Transportation**

**for Students in Foster Care**

**Purpose:** On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), a 1965 federal law governing education last reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act in 2002. Among its provisions, the law now requires states to ensure protections for vulnerable youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. These include school stability and transportation, mandatory data reporting, and agency collaboration.

*Please follow ESSA Procedures when a student is removed from their Home to a Placement outside of their original school zone. The Department of Children and Families (DCF), Brevard Family Partnership (BFP), Family Allies, or Brevard CARES (conflict cases only) Points of Contact (POC’s) will initiate the ESSA Process*

**1. School of Origin Input Forms**: Appropriate agencies, as listed above, POC’s will contact the Foster Care Contact via email to complete the School of Origin Input Form. Please complete and return asap, no longer than 2 work days along with any pertinent records.

\* FC Contacts, if giving ESSA forms to student’s counselor to complete, please ensure compliance with timeframes.

\* Students will remain enrolled in the School of Origin, and Case Management will provide transportation, until a

 Best Interest Determination has been made.

**2. Conference Call**: Appropriate agency POC will schedule Conference Call with Stakeholders asap, no longer than 2 work days, after receiving School and Case Manager input. ESSA Team will collaborate and complete the Best Interest Determination.

*Appropriate Agency POC will invite Transportation Contact, Jennifer Krauser to participate in conference call that could result in transport that would exceed a 20-minute car drive (equal to approximately 45-minute bus drive that crosses multiple school boundaries). Contact Info:* *Krauser.Jennifer@BrevardSchools.org* *(321) 617-7776 ext. 14070.*

 ***\*If transportation cannot attend, or send route info, conference will be rescheduled.***

**3. Best Interest Determination**: Appropriate agency please send completed Best Interest Determination Form and Placement Letter to Foster Care Contact and follow up with updated registration form to school clerk.

Schools please assure *that the student’s new address, on Placement Letter, is changed in Focus immediately, as Transportation needs this Prior to any route changes*

\*Dispute Resolution: Case Management is considered the final decision maker for Best Interest Determination.

**4. Transportation**: Needs will be handled according to the Best Interest Determination:

*Student to Remain at the School of Origin: Request School Clerk submit Specialized Transportation Form*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjNVGgELvq9uRU3HVhapUb3SWOo3ZeHeL_GaVHnCNA7pXRkQ/viewform>

*Student to Transition to a New School: Local school will arrange transportation services.*

***\*To assist with a smooth transition for student, FC Contacts please notify new school’s FC Contact or Counselor of the placement change, along with any pertinent information, prior to the student’s arrival. Thank You!***

Transportation will notify appropriate school once route is scheduled. School will notify the Guardian when route will begin.

Questions should be directed to the appropriate Brevard Public Schools ESSA Point of Contact:

 Michelle Bayer (Secondary) 321-242-6450 Ext. 41294 Carey Dixon (Elementary) 321-633-1000 Ext. 11515

*\*Brevard Family Partnership (BFP) is the Lead Foster Care Agency for Brevard County and contracts Case Management Services through Family Allies. Brevard CAREs will assist Family Allies with special conflict cases for purposes of ESSA*