



Evergreen Community Charter School

Section: 200 Programs
Title: Foster Student
Number: 255
Adopted: September 28, 2023

Authority

To ensure the educational stability of children in foster care, the Board requires the Evergreen Community Charter School to collaborate with the local children and youth agency and other school districts.

Definitions

Foster care means twenty-four (24) hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made by the state, tribal or local agency for the care of the child, whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption, or whether there is federal matching of any payments that are made.

School of origin is the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change.

Delegation of Responsibility

A point of contact for children in foster care shall be designated.

Evergreen Community Charter School's point of contact shall coordinate with:

1. Local children and youth agency to:
 - a. Establish formal mechanisms to ensure that the school is promptly notified when a child enters foster care or changes foster care

placements.

- b. Develop a protocol on how to make best interest determinations.
 - c. Develop a dispute resolution process to address disagreements over best interest determination decisions.
2. Other school districts on issues of transfer of records, transportation and other inter-district activities.

Guidelines

Enrollment/Placement

A child in foster care shall continue to be enrolled in his/her school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in his/her best interest to attend the school of origin.

Best Interest Determination -

The best interest determination shall be made as quickly as possible in order to prevent educational discontinuity for the child and in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, court orders, and established local procedures.

In determining whether it is in a child's best interest to remain in his/her school of origin, all factors relating to a child's best interest shall be considered, including the appropriateness of the current educational setting and proximity of foster care placement.

Documentation related to the best interest determination shall be kept in the student's education record.

Transportation shall not be considered when determining the child's best interest.

When making decisions regarding the educational placement of students with disabilities, the Director or designee shall ensure that all required special education and related services and supports are provided in the least restrictive placement where the child's unique needs can be met.

Enrollment -

When a child in foster care is enrolled in Evergreen Community Charter School, the point of contact shall:

1. Ensure the child is immediately enrolled and attending school, even if the records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies are not available.
2. Immediately contact the school last attended by the child to obtain relevant academic and other records.

Dispute Resolution -

If a dispute arises over the appropriate school placement for a child in foster care, to the extent feasible and appropriate, the child shall remain in his/her school of origin, pending resolution of the dispute.

Once a decision is made, a written explanation shall be provided.

Assignment -

If Evergreen Community Charter School is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records the school shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's assignment within the school.

Student Who Has Exited Foster Care -

A student who exited foster care may be permitted to finish the semester at Evergreen Community Charter School.

Education Records

Evergreen Community Charter School may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without written consent of the parent(s) or the eligible student if the disclosure is:

1. To comply with a court order authorizing the disclosure of education records in a case where a parent is a party to a proceeding involving child abuse or neglect or a dependency matter.
2. To an agency caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency, or tribal organization, who has the right to access a student's case plan, as defined and determined by the state or tribal organization, when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with state or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student, provided that the education records, or the personally identifiable information contained in such records, of the student will not be disclosed by such agency or organization, except to an individual or entity engaged in addressing the student's education needs and authorized by such agency or organization to receive such disclosure and such disclosure is consistent with the state or tribal laws applicable to protecting the confidentiality of a student's education records.

Transportation

Evergreen Community Charter School shall defer to the sending districts for any and all transportation plans.