

## **STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE**

The board recognizes that students in foster care experience mobility in and out of the foster care system and from one home placement to another that disrupts their education, thereby creating barriers to academic success and on-time graduation. Through collaboration with state, local and/or tribal child welfare agencies, the district will strive to minimize or eliminate educational barriers for students in foster care, particularly with regard to enrollment, transfer of student records, and transportation to their school of origin. The superintendent or designee is authorized to establish procedures and/or practices for implementing this policy.

### Enrollment

Whenever practical and in the best interest of the child, children placed into foster care will remain enrolled in the school they were attending upon entering foster care. When a determination of the student's best interest is necessary, it will take into account a number of factors as described in the procedures that accompany this policy, including concern for the student's safety as well as the availability of supports for the student's educational success. Such a determination should involve a district representative, a representative of the appropriate child welfare agency, the student, and the student's biological and foster families, if reasonably feasible.

### Dispute Resolution

In the event that a caregiver or education decision-maker disputes a district decision regarding the best interest of the student in foster care with regard to enrollment or the provision of any other education-related service, including transportation, the caregiver or education decision-maker may use District Appeals Process outlined in Procedure 4220-P. The district will make all reasonable efforts to collaborate with appropriate agencies and aggrieved parties to resolve the dispute at the local level.

In the event that a dispute occurs between the district and a child welfare agency with regard to issues that do not involve educational placement or the provision of educational services (e.g., transportation reimbursements, failure to collaborate), such disputes may be forwarded to the office of the superintendent of public instruction for resolution.

### Cross References:

Board Policy 3115	Homeless Students – Enrollment Rights and Services
Board Policy 3120	Enrollment
Board Policy 3122	Excused and Unexcused Absences
Board Policy 3231	Student Records
Board Policy 6100	Revenues from Local, State, and Federal Sources

Legal References:

RCW 28A.150.510	Transmittal of education records to department of social and health services – Disclosure of educational records – Data-sharing agreements – Comprehensive needs requirement document – Report
RCW 28A.225.023	Youth dependent pursuant to Chapter 13.34
RCW 28A.225.215	RCW - Review of unexpected or excessive absences – Support for youth’s school work
RCW 28A.225.330	Enrollment of children without legal residences
	Enrolling students from other districts—
	Requests for information and permanently records—Withheld transcripts—Immunity from liability—Notification to teachers and security personnel—Rules
RCW 28A.320.192	On-time grade level progression and graduation of students who are dependent youth
RCW 74.13.550	Child placement – Policy of educational continuity
20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act [ESSA]

Management Resources:

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