Points of Contact

The AZ Dept. of Education (ADE), Local Educational Agencies (LEA- public school districts & charters), and the Child Welfare Agencies (CWA- Dept. of Child Safety (DCS) or Tribal) must designate **Points of Contact (POC)** for the purpose of school stability for children in foster care.

ADE- Joey Taylor, Foster Care Education Coordinator
joey.taylor@azed.gov

LEAs- A list of the LEA POCs can be found at
http://www.azed.gov/fostercare/lea-poc-list/

CWA- A list of the DCS POCs can be found under the 'Training' tab at azed.gov/FosterCare
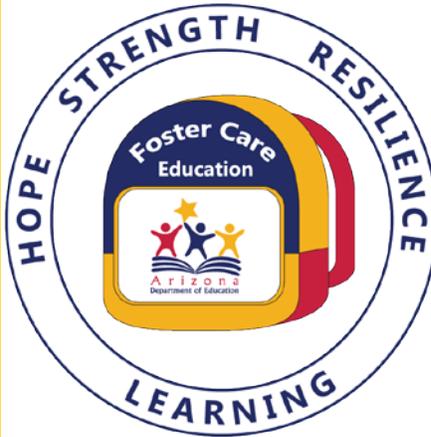
School Stability

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) mandates that the LEA and CWA will collaborate for the purpose of school stability for foster children and will ensure that these children will remain in their school of origin.

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

If it is in the **best interest** of the foster child to enroll in a new school, that **new school must immediately enroll the foster child, even if they cannot meet the usual requirements needed to enroll.**

The enrolling school will immediately solicit (and receive) any relevant records from the foster child's previous school.

ESSA Foster Care Provisions

For more information pertaining to foster care & education visit AZED.GOV/FosterCare

Transportation to School of Origin

If transportation is needed for a child in foster care to remain in their school of origin, the LEA and CWA must share that responsibility.

The LEA must develop **clear written procedures** regarding how transportation to the school of origin will be **provided, arranged, and funded in a cost-effective manner** and that **additional costs** are either, reimbursed by the CWA, paid by the LEA, or shared between the LEA and the CWA.

Some no or low cost options may include:
transportation already provided by other LEA programs
the foster group home transports up to 50 miles one way
caregiver provides transportation
amending LEA bus routes
public transportation, if appropriate

Identification

ESSA mandates that children in foster care be identified as their own subgroup and that **student achievement** & **graduation rate** data be disaggregated. Children in foster care are performing much lower than their peers. Accurately identifying children in foster care will go a long way to help provide the services that this subgroup needs to succeed at higher rates.

Helpful tips to **identify foster children** are:
a public information poster can be found under the 'Training' tab at azed.gov/FosterCare
the caregiver should supply a 'Notice to Provider'
CWA may supply a 'Notice of Removal'
children may self-disclose foster care status
children in foster care may regress in their development
children in foster care may become moody, too clingy or too detached, aggressive, amongst other behaviors