The fiscal year will automatically roll to 2022 on October 1, 2021. Please note the fiscal year before making changes to an application.

**Improvement Planning - Foster Care Plan**

**LEA Student in Foster Care Overview**

- Number of Students in Foster Care (Enrolled for Previous School Year): 0
- Number of Students in Foster Care (Currently Enrolled): 0

List Agencies in Collaboration:

- i3 Academy
- Department of Human Resources Jefferson County

Policy Review and Revision (Describe how each agency in collaboration reviewed policies and the revisions made to policies as a result of reviews.):

The educational stability includes that (1) a child in foster care will remain in the child's school of origin, unless a determination is made that it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the school and (2) if a determination is made that it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child will be immediately enrolled in the school of residence, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

Describe Collaboration and Coordination with Agencies (Include a list of team members, positions, signatures, and agencies.):

A committee will meet to determine the appropriate placement of each foster care child. The committee will be comprised of the site administrator or LEA representative, the Foster Care Liaison, and a member of the DHR. In emergency circumstances the DHR has the authority to make an immediate decision regarding the school placement, and then consult with the LEA and revisit the best interest determination of the child.

LEA(s) Point(s) of Contact: Chris Bouyer, School Social Work
DHR(s) Point(s) of Contact: Jefferson County Department of

LEA Student in Foster Care Responses
2 C. F. R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. §76.770; ESSA SECTION 1111(1)(e) - LEAs must implement the Title I educational stability requirements of 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.

Describe procedures for implementing the above provisions.

This plan is to address the requirement for foster care provisions under Title I of ESSA which require State Educational Agencies (SDE) and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to collaborate with Child Welfare Agencies (DHRs) to ensure educational stability and minimize educational disruptions for children in foster care.

i3 Academy is committed to provide all students with sound educational experiences. We recognize that foster children are at an increased risk of grade retention, gaps in academic achievement, low high school graduation rates, and postsecondary enrollment. These provisions promote greater stability for children in foster care so that they can continue their education without disruption, maintain important relationships with peers and adults, and have the opportunity to achieve college and career readiness.

ESSA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) – A description of how the LEA in collaboration with the local child welfare agency will ensure that in determining whether it is in the child’s best interest to remain in his or her school or origin, and LEA takes into consideration all factors relating to a child’s best interest.

Description of how the LEA will work with child welfare agencies to develop a clear policy or protocol on how to make best interest determinations including making every effort to gather meaningful input from relevant parties, in addition to required child welfare and school representatives, in deciding what school placement is in a child’s best interest. Include a description of protocols in this description.

- Each placement of the child in foster care takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement. The state child welfare agency will coordinate with appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the child remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.
- If it is not in the best interest of the child to return to the resident school, the child will immediately be provided appropriate enrollment in i3 Academy.
- i3 Academy will gather and maintain educational records and promptly send them to any district where the child moves.

Foster Care Child Liaison (POC) i3 Academy will assign at least one person to serve as a Foster Care Child Liaison, or Point of Contact (POC). The Foster Child Liaison will work in the best interest of the child to ensure that all educational requirements are being met. The liaison that is assigned to the position will have access to available training and materials to keep them informed of any changes in the Foster Care Regulations. The liaison will work closely with state and child welfare agencies to:

Coordinate with the corresponding child welfare agency,
- Lead the development of a process for making the best interest determination,
- Document the best interest determination,
• Facilitate the transfer of records and immediate enrollment,
• Facilitate data sharing with the child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols,
• Develop and coordinate local transportation procedures,
• Manage best interest determinations and transportation cost disputes,
• Ensure that children in foster care are enrolled in and regularly attending school, and
• Providing professional development and training to school staff on the Title I provisions and educational needs of children in foster care.

ESSA Section 1112(c)(5)(B) Description of transportation protocols and procedures to include how additional costs for transportation will be calculated and funded as well as a policy for LEAs to resolve best interest disputes and interagency disputes related to transportation costs. Description must include how transportation and transportation costs will be monitored. (Include LEA and welfare responsibilities for providing transportation.)

Description of Dispute Resolution Policy

Transportation

i3 Academy will coordinate with the DHR to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation is provided to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin. i3 Academy will also work with the DHR to reach an agreement in regard to covering the transportation costs. The agreement will cover how the transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child's time in foster care. Each agreement can/will vary greatly because the needs of each child should be considered in making the decision on transportation.

ESSA Section 111(g)(1)(E)(ii)-(iii) Describe protocol for a child in foster care to be immediately enrolled in a new school.

In the event of a disagreement regarding school placement for a child in foster care, the child welfare agency should be considered the final decision maker in making the best interest determination. The child welfare agency is uniquely positioned to assess vital non-educational factors such as safety, sibling placements, the child's permanency goal, and other components of the case plan. The child welfare agency also has the authority, capacity, and responsibility to collaborate with and gain information from multiple parties including parents, children, schools, and the court in making these decisions.

Enrollment of Students Foster care parents, social workers or other legal guardians will be allowed to immediately enroll children in i3 Academy. We understand that all necessary paperwork (birth certificates, shot records, academic records, special education records, etc.) may not be immediately available and we want to provide a smooth transition for the student into our school system. We will contact the school of origin for the records and make adaptations as needed. After enrollment, the following guardianship or legal custody documents shall be provided for verification by the foster care family or DHR:

♦ Power of Attorney
♦ Affidavit
♦ Court Order

SYSTEM PLAN ITEMS RELATED BY FISCAL RESOURCE

Expand All  Collapse All

There are currently no Goal or Action Step items associated with this Grant.