

Stringtown Public Schools
Foster Care Plan Including Foster Care Related Policies

Stringtown Public Schools is committed to providing 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.

The educational stability includes that 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 that school and 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.

School District Assurances

Each placement of the child in foster care takes in 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 welfare agency will coordinate 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 the appropriate enrollment to Stringtown Public Schools.

The Stringtown Public School District will gather and maintain educational records and promptly send them to any district where the student moves.

Foster Care Child Liaison

Stringtown Public Schools will assign at least one person to serve as a Foster Care Child Liaison. The Foster Care 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 tribal welfare agencies to coordinate with the corresponding child welfare agency, make the best interest determination, document facilitate the transfer of records and immediate enrollment, coordinate and collaborate with local agencies as needed, and maintain FERPA as well as other privacy concerns, determine and organize transportation, coordinate and oversee disputes, complaints, and professional development.

Enrollment of Students

Foster care parents, social workers or other legal guardians will be allowed to immediately enroll children in Stringtown Public Schools. We understand that all necessary paperwork (birth certificate, shot records, academic records, special educations records, etc.) may not be immediately available and want to provide a smooth transition for the student into our district. We will contact the home school district 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 family or CWA: Power of Attorney, affidavit, and/or Court Order.

Student Records

The Stringtown Public School District will share education records with the CWA that are allowed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This allows educational agencies to disclose without parental consent educational records, including IDEA, of students in foster care to State and Tribal agencies.

Policy

It is our policy to follow the directives of the legislation and to work to ensure the best interests of the children are met.