



SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL

Transportation of Students in Foster Care Procedure

Purpose:

SFIS is committed to ensuring educational stability with minimal disruption for all admitted and enrolled students, including those placed in foster care. In accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), SFIS will communicate and collaborate with tribal, state, and local child welfare agencies to maintain SFIS enrollment for students in foster care when it is in their best interest.

Procedure:

When a student, who has been accepted and has enrolled in SFIS, is placed in foster care or changes residence while in foster care, the student's case manager and/or the child welfare agency with oversight of the student will notify the Admissions Director and complete the Transportation of Foster Student Request Form with the student's name, new residence address, and whether the student has an IEP with specialized transportation. This will allow the child welfare agency to provide the necessary information in a timely manner.

SFIS will identify potential ways that the student could be transported (see list of options below), including enrolling day students in the dormitory. SFIS' Transportation Coordinator will arrange transportation details with the student's case manager and child welfare agency.

Options:

Multiple factors will be considered when determining transportation options for foster care students, including: safety for the student and other students being transported; student age; length of commute; distance; bus route space and capacity; and dormitory space and capacity.

The following options will be considered:

- An existing bus route can be used.
- Specialized transportation offered to other students can be accessed, such as: special education.
- Enrolling in the dormitory.
- Public transportation, such as Rail Runner, city bus, Blue Bus, etc.
- Reimbursing foster parents for transportation costs.

If the change in residence and potential transportation options indicate that continued enrollment at SFIS may not be in the best interest of the student, SFIS will notify the student's case manager and/or child welfare agency with oversight of the student and invite the case manager and/or agency representative to a Best Interest Determination (BID) meeting. The BID meeting will consider the student's circumstances, transportation options, and other school enrollment options in order to reach a joint decision about maintaining enrollment at SFIS.

Funding:

If SFIS can offer an existing means of transportation and/or enrollment in the dormitory at no additional cost, SFIS will fund transportation.

If transportation of the student will incur additional costs, SFIS and the child welfare agency will determine funding options, including the use of SFIS' Title I, Part A funds to assist in covering costs.



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Transportation of Foster Students Transportation Request Form

Child Welfare Agency:	
Student Case Worker:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Student Information	
Student Name:	
Grade:	
Date of Birth:	
Old Address:	
New Address:	
Does the student have an IEP with specialized transportation? If so, provide details.	
Other:	

Submit Form to:

Admissions Director Alissa Chavez-Lowe: alchavezlowe@sfis.k12.nm.us