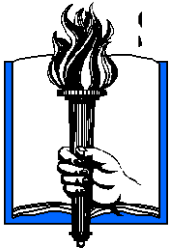


**MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOLS  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES**



<b>Descriptor Term:</b>  Students in Foster Care	<b>Descriptor No:</b> SS9	<b>Effective Date:</b>  5/30/2017
<b>Reviewed/Revised:</b> 9/18		

1 The Murfreesboro City School System shall provide all students in foster care, including those  
2 awaiting foster care placement, with a free and appropriate public education.

3 **ENROLLMENT**

4 Students in foster care, including those awaiting foster care placement, shall be immediately  
5 enrolled, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (i.e.  
6 academic records, immunization records, health records, proof of residency), or has missed the  
7 district's application or enrollment deadlines.

8 **PLACEMENT**

9 The district and the child welfare agency shall determine whether placement in a particular  
10 school is in a student's best interest. Other parties, including the student, foster parent, and  
11 biological parents (if appropriate), shall be consulted. If the child has an IEP or a Section 504  
12 plan, then the relevant school staff members shall participate in the best interest decision process.  
13 This determination shall be made as quickly as possible to prevent educational disruption.

14 At all times, a strong presumption that keeping the student in school of origin is in the student's  
15 best interest shall be maintained. For the purposes of this directive, school of origin shall mean  
16 the school in which the student was enrolled, including a preschool/pre-k program, at the time of  
17 placement in foster care or at the time of a placement change if the student is already placed in  
18 foster care.

19 When determining placement, student-centered factors including, but not limited to, the  
20 following shall be considered:

- 21           1. Preferences of the student;  
22           2. Preferences of the student's parent(s) or education decision maker(s);  
23           3. The student's attachment to the school, including meaningful relationships with staff  
24           and peers;  
25           4. Placement of the student's siblings;

- 26 5. Influence of the school climate on the student, including safety;  
27 6. The availability and quality of the services in the school to meet the student's  
28 educational needs;  
29 7. History of school transfers and how they have impacted the student;  
30 8. How the length of the commute would impact the student;  
31 9. Whether the student is receiving special education and related services, and if so , the  
32 availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin; and  
33 10. Whether the student is an EL and is receiving language services, and, if so, the  
34 availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin.

35 Transportation costs should not be considered when determining a student's best interest.

36 If it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin, the director or his/her  
37 designee shall provide a written explanation of the reasons for the determination. The written  
38 explanation shall include a statement regarding the right to appeal the placement decision. If the  
39 placement decision is appealed, the district shall refer the student to the district coordinator for  
40 children in foster care, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as  
41 possible and in accordance with the law. Until the dispute is resolved, to the extent feasible, the  
42 student shall remain in his/her school of origin.

#### 43 **TRANSPORTATION**

44 The district shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear  
45 and written procedures governing how transportation to a student's school of origin shall be  
46 provided, arranged, and funded. This transportation will be provided for the duration of the  
47 student's time in foster care.

48 The Director of Schools shall develop administrative procedures to provide for transportation of  
49 students in foster care. These procedures must ensure that:

- 50 1. Students in foster care needing transportation to their schools of origin will promptly  
51 receive that transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with federal  
52 law: and  
53 2. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of  
54 origin, the district will provide such transportation if:  
55 a. the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the district for the cost of  
56 such transportation;  
57 b. the district agrees to pay for the cost; or  
58 c. the district and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost.

59 The district will ensure that a student in foster care, to include a student awaiting foster care  
60 placement, remains in his/her school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs  
61 are being resolved.

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#### 62 Legal References

- 63 1. Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
64 (ESEA), as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95)  
65 §1111 (g)(1)(E)(ii)-(iii)  
66 2. Elementary and Secondary Education Act

67 (ESEA), as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95)  
68 §1111 (g)(1)(E)(i)-(iv)  
69 3. Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
70 (ESEA), as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95)  
71 §1111 (g)(1)(E)  
72 4. Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
73 (ESEA), as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95)  
74 §1112 (c)(5); §475(4)(A) of the Social Security  
75 Act, 42 U.S.C. §675 (4)(A)  
76 5. Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
77 (ESEA), as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95)  
78 §1112 (c)(5)(B)(i)