

## Foster Care Liaisons and Points of Contact

### Public Chapter No. 951

Chapter 951 of the Public Acts of 2022 took effect on July 1, 2022. This statute requires all local education agencies (LEAs) to designate a foster care liaison to facilitate LEA compliance with state and federal laws related to students in foster care and to collaborate with the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to address educational barriers for students in foster care. Additionally, this statute gives LEAs the option to establish a building point of contact (POC) in each school to assist in coordinating services and resources for students in foster care.

LEAs should consider whether the appointment of a building POC will assist with ensuring the educational stability of youth in foster care. If an LEA chooses to appoint a building POC, please keep the following best practices in mind:

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), § 111(g)(1)(E) emphasizes the importance of collaboration between child welfare and educational agencies to ensure improved outcomes for children in foster care. All building POCs should be familiar with DCS.
- The U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services joint guidance titled "Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care" (2016) states it is essential that any designated POC have "sufficient capacity and necessary resources to fulfill their duties, considering the roles and responsibilities of the POC to facilitate the implementation of the Title I foster care provisions."
- LEAs should consider assigning a building POC who has the capacity to carry out the following roles and responsibilities including, but not limited to:
  - Coordinating with DCS
  - Leading the process and meeting of best interest determination (BID)
  - Documenting the BID
  - Facilitating the transfer of records and immediate enrollment
  - Communicating with the LEA POC (liaison) to coordinate transportation if required
  - Ensuring that children in foster care are enrolled in and regularly attending school
- Examples of building POCs may include:
  - Counselors
  - Social workers
  - Building administrators

If an LEA chooses to appoint a building POC, it is the responsibility of the LEA POC to conduct all necessary training. Resources for training can be found on [ePlan > TDOE Resources > Non-Traditional Education Programs \(NEP\) > Title I, Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care > TDOE Guidance and Webinars](#).