



Transportation Plan to Ensure School Stability for Students in Foster Care

Local Educational Agency (LEA): Empower College Prep

- LEA Foster Care Point of Contact:
 - Natalina Mariscal (Masad)
 - 602-283-5720, ext 1128
 - natalina.mariscal@empowercollegeprep.org

- Transportation Office contact:
 - Jose Martinez
 - 602-859-7166
 - jose.martinez@empowercollegeprep.org

Duration of Transportation

If transportation to school of origin is required in order to maintain school stability for students in foster care, **Empower College Prep**, in collaboration with the local child welfare agency (CWA), will ensure that said transportation will be provided for the duration of the child(ren)'s time in foster care.

How Transportation Will Be Provided, Arranged, and Funded

1. Interim transportation should be addressed to ensure no delays for the student in foster care while transportation is being worked out between the parties. Describe how this LEA will promptly provide, arrange, and fund interim transportation for children in foster care as they collaborate with the CWA to institute a child's long term transportation plan (*be sure to include the duration of transportation, method of transportation, etc*):
 - **Empower College Prep will arrange interim transportation for students in foster care by assigning the student to the corresponding established Empower bus route for K-8th grade students at Empower College Prep Elementary School and Empower College Prep High School for their current housing placement. Interim transportation will be provided for Empower College Prep High School 9th-12th grade students through a City of Phoenix public transportation pass. This will be provided at no cost and will be for both city bus and light rail usage. High school students may also ride an established school bus route if requested by the CWA.**

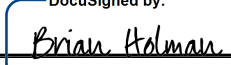
2. Describe how this LEA will examine existing transportation options available for students in foster care (*i.e. transportation covered by other LEA programs, state contracts, etc.*):



- **Existing Empower College Prep transportation will be the first and main method in which the students are transported. With six routes, the current transportation provided by Empower College Prep serves a large square mile radius of the City of Phoenix. In addition, the City of Phoenix public transportation pass serves the remaining areas of need.**
3. Describe how this LEA will ensure that children in foster care will promptly receive transportation to their school of origin in a cost effective manner & in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675 (4)(A)) (*be sure to include no or low cost options to pursue, which occurrences this LEA will agree to pay for the cost of transportation, which occurrences this LEA will pursue reimbursement from the local CWA for the cost of transportation, which occurrences this LEA will seek a cost sharing agreement with the local CWA for the cost of transportation, methods of transportation to be used and when such methods would be used, procedures to ensure student safety, etc.*):
- **Once the school of origin is notified of a new placement, the Foster Care Point of Contact will work with the school of residence, care provider, CWA, and Transportation Office to schedule a Best Interest Determination (BID) meeting. It is the responsibility of the foster care home to provide up to 50 miles of transportation if feasible. Within 24 hours of notification of a new placement for students in foster care, the Foster Care Point of Contact will work with Empower College Prep's Transportation Office to determine if there is a current bus route in which the student can be placed. This would be at no cost to the CWA. If a student is not on a current bus route the cost differential to add an additional stop would be shared with the local CWA. If an additional stop is not feasible, we will work with a contracted transportation company to ensure transportation for the student from and to the school of origin. Student safety is ensured by bus drivers and monitors at the point of arrival. Students at Empower College Prep High School will be provided by a combination of city bus passes from the City of Phoenix and the established bus routes. Safety procedures are provided by the operations coordinator through a written manual.**

These transportation procedures were instituted on the following date: 8/11/2023

Authorized Signature for **Empower College Prep**:

DocuSigned by:

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Brian Holman, Executive Director

