

Bison School District Transportation Plan for Students Placed in Foster Care

Sequence:

1. When a student is placed in foster care or changes residence while in foster care, the CPS worker must notify the school district contact person. The district's POC must be notified if the new residence is not in the same school district.
2. If necessary, the district's POC can notify the SOO transportation designee.
 - a. The POC should provide the student's name, current school, new residence address, and whether the student has an IEP with specialized transportation.
 - b. The SOO transportation designee identifies potential ways to transport the child (see list of options below).
3. The CPS worker and the district POC share information and make a joint decision.
4. If the decision is that the student will remain in the current school, the district POC can notify the SOO transportation designee, who then assists in arranging transportation to and from school.

Options:

Multiple factors will be considered and addressed when determining transportation options for these students, including safety for the student and other students being transported, student age, length of commute, and distance. The SOO transportation designee will provide information about these factors so that the plan will be in the child's best interest and include consideration of cost-effective measures.

The following options can be considered to provide SOO transportation:

1. Existing transportation can be modified slightly to accommodate the new address, such as:
 - a. An existing bus route can be used.
 - b. An existing bus route can be modified slightly to accommodate the new address.

- c. Specialized transportation offered to other students can be accessed, such as:
 - i. School district car;
 - ii. Public transportation;
- 1. The CPS worker should also explore options other than those provided by the school district, such as reimbursing the foster parents for transportation costs or including transport in contracts with licensed child-placing agencies or group homes.

Funding:

If Bison School District can offer an existing means of transportation at no additional cost, CPS will not be charged.

CPS and Bison School District can work together, as described above, to provide a form of transportation that best meets the child's needs. CPS will explore different funding sources to assist with transportation. The school district's Title I, Part A funds may be used to assist with excess transportation costs if funds exist after covering mandated responsibilities (such as transportation for students experiencing homelessness).

If the student's IEP includes provisions for specialized transportation, the school district responsible for the student's Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) must provide it. Based on South Dakota's special education regulations, any alternative special education placement, whether public or private, assumes specialized transportation is part of the IEP and must be provided for the student to receive FAPE.