



Federal and State Programs

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Foster Parents

If a child is in a foster home, where will he go to school?

When it is in the best interest of the child, the Department of Children's Services attempts to keep the student in the same school he was in before entering custody. When that is not possible or not in the best interest of the child, the student attends the school of zone where the resource home is located.

If I have education concerns about my child or a foster child living in my home, what should I do?

First contact the Department of Family Protective Services DFPS or Provider Agency case manager. He or she may be able to address your concern. Each region has an Education Specialist. The primary responsibility of that person is to advocate for your child in any matter related to school. That includes visiting schools, attending meetings, and helping solve difficult issues.

If my child is in a foster home, do I, as the parent, still have rights to participate in her education program?

Yes, unless a judge has specifically revoked your rights to do so. You may attend meetings with teachers, go to Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, etc. You should always let your DFPS Education Specialist or Provider Agency case manager know when you are going to go to a meeting and prior to any school visit.

As a Foster Parent, am I responsible for paying for school lunches for the foster children living in my home?

All children under the conservatorship of DFPS are automatically eligible for free lunch and breakfast programs.

If my child or foster child was receiving special education services in a previous school, will he continue to receive services in a new school?

In most all cases, yes. The new school is to use the IEP from the previous school to provide comparable services until an IEP meeting is scheduled to see if any changes are necessary.

If my child or foster child is a senior on track to graduate, will changing schools cause that to change?

It could. Because each school system may add additional requirements to the State's minimum requirements, your child's may need additional credits. Schools are most often willing to work with our Educational Specialists to come to a solution. Please contact Ysleta ISD Federal and State Programs Department to assist with any of these issues (915) 434-0793.

What should I do if my child or foster child is going to graduate and wants to attend college or some other type of school program?

The student should schedule a time to talk with the school counselor at the school. In addition, the DFPS Independent Living Division may be able to offer the student additional benefits, funding, or programming. Schedule a time to speak with an Independent Living Specialist. Locally the Foster Homeless Adoption Resources FHAR program will assist with obtaining all benefits to access Higher Education (915) 747-5290.

Updated February 2017

Please contact Federal and State Programs Department with any questions regarding these or any other questions or concerns. (915) 434-0793