



MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILDREN'S DIVISION
P.O. BOX 88
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65103
TELEPHONE: 573-522-8024

Relay Missouri
for hearing and speech impaired
TEXT TELEPHONE
1-800-735-2966
VOICE
1-800-735-2466

Dear Foster Parent:

I am writing to you to inform you of the legislation relating to enrolling foster children in school. The law requires the Children's Division to consult with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish necessary procedures to implement the following statute:

“Upon request of foster family, the guardian ad litem, or the volunteer advocate and whenever possible, the child shall be permitted to continue to attend the same school that the child was enrolled in and attending at the time the child was taken into custody by the division.” (211.032.7(2), RSMo)

When possible, with the best interest of the child in mind, arranging for the child to continue to attend the same school should be discussed during the 24/72 hour Family Support Team meeting. Distance from original school may be a factor in recommending such arrangements, based on location of the foster family, the school district may be able to provide transportation. DESE has provided some options for the team to consider, including:

1. The school bus of the foster child's home district travels to the home of the foster parent to pick up the child;
2. The foster parent provides transportation and receives reimbursement for mileage from the school district;
3. The foster parent meets the school bus at the boundary line of the school district;
4. The school district contracts with an individual, besides the foster parent, to transport the child to their home school district; or
5. The foster parent provides transportation with no reimbursement for mileage from the school district.

Please note that the law does not require schools to provide reimbursement as described above.

When it is determined to be in the child's best interest, the foster parent should enroll the child in their new school. It is the responsibility of the new school to request transfer of records from the old school, pursuant to Sections 167.022, and 211.032.7(1) RSMo., within two business days upon notification by the Division.

If you have any questions regarding this new law or any policy related to the Children's Division, please feel free to contact your local office. Thank you for your good services to Missouri's children.

Sincerely,

Paula Neese
Interim Director