



## Transportation Plan

Between

**Gillingham Charter School**

and

**Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services  
Transportation Procedures**

To ensure the educational stability of Foster Care Youth:  
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements

### Part 1. LEA and CCYA Representative(s) Included in Designing the Local Transportation Plan

Local Education Agency Representative(s)	Title
1) Nicolle Hutchinson	<i>Executive Director</i>
2)	
3)	
4)	

County Children and Youth Agency Representative(s)	Title
1) Lisa Stevens	<i>Executive Director</i>
2) Ann Keer	<i>Education Liaison</i>
3)	
4)	

### Part 2. Addressing Transportation Assurances to Ensure Educational Stability

When a student enters foster care or moves in placement, Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services will contact by telephone or e-mail the District point of contact (POC) of the school of origin to notify them of the placement. The District and Schuylkill Children and Youth Services will make a determination if it is in the student's best interest to remain in their school of origin. Once this determination has occurred, the District and Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services will review the need for transportation. SCCY will provide contact information for the placement resource. The Agency and District will take the student's age, length of commute, and special needs into consideration when developing the student's transportation plan.

Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services and the District POC will explore transportation options available to both agencies. Options will include, but are not limited to:

- Existing bus routes to the school of origin, Catholic schools, charter schools, Schuylkill Intermediate Unit, and Vo-tech programs
- Existing bus routes used by neighboring districts
- Existing district bus stops
- Existing bus stops used by neighboring districts
- Transportation options available through Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services, the resource family, or the foster care agency.
- Transportation available to the student through their IEP
- Transportation available to students through the McKinney-Vento Act

Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services and the District will make decisions on a case-by-case basis to determine arrangements in the best interest of the student(s) and in the most cost effective manner. The District POC will collaborate with their transportation department to arrange for transportation.

Once the district has made transportation arrangements, the District POC will communicate by telephone or e-mail the arrangements to Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services. Arrangements will include the type of transportation, location, and times of pick-up and drop-off. Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services will communicate the arrangements to the placement resource.

**Part 3: Addressing Additional Costs**

Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services and District recognize that work on the federal and state level in ensuring transportation for all children and youth in foster placement is under development. Among the areas needing expansion is the allowance of federal funds for all children in placement, particularly for transportation to school. Meanwhile, work on a local level is necessary to obtain information about the actual needs and costs of transporting foster students in Schuylkill County. This information is critical to the development of a sustainable and cost-effective transportation plan. Therefore, Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services and the District will monitor the arrangements and costs of transporting foster students in an effort to obtain this information. Until the actual transportation needs of foster students are understood, decisions about the responsibility of funding the additional costs will be made on a case-by-case basis. Additional costs represent the difference between what the District would normally spend on transportation to the student’s assigned school and the cost of transportation to the school of origin. Both agencies will use available resources in an effort to avoid incurring additional costs. However, if additional costs are incurred, the agency and the district will collaborate on a case-by-case basis on how the costs will be paid.

**Part 4. Considering Low-Cost or No-Cost Transportation Options for Foster Care Youth**

<b>No-Cost or Low-Cost Options</b>	<b>LEA</b>	<b>CCYA</b>
The child may be dropped off at a school bus stop near the existing transportation system for the school of origin. Communication between the current and new school districts is critical.	X	X
Public transportation options exist, if the child is of an appropriate age and has, or is able to acquire, the skills to utilize such options.	X	X
The foster parents or other family member(s) are willing and able to transport the child to school.	X	X
The child is already eligible for transportation covered by other programs. For example, Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) funds may be used to pay for transportation services if the child’s IEP Team determines transportation is a related service that is required for a child with disabilities in foster care to receive FAPE.	X	
There are pre-existing bus routes or stops close to the new foster care placement that cross district boundaries, such as bus routes for magnet schools and transportation for homeless students as required by the McKinney-Vento Act.	X	
The school district of residence, school district of origin, and placing CCYA may be willing to share transportation costs.	X	X

*Please describe any additional low-cost or no-cost options for transportation of students in foster care which may be unique to your local context.*

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**Part 5. Describing a local transportation dispute resolution process between the LEA and CCYA**

Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services and the District expect a dispute resolution process will be developed on the state and/or local level. Until this process is developed, Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services and the District will seek guidance from the Educational Stability for Foster Care Youth Regional Office when a conflict arises.

Out of professional courtesy, when either the Agency or the District decides to contact the Regional Office with the intention of resolving the dispute, they will notify the other party by telephone or e-mail prior to contacting the Regional Office. The party who opposes the transportation plan will then contact by e-mail the regional coordinator and “copy” the other party on the e-mail. The e-mail will detail the transportation plan and the points of contention. The e-mail will ask for recommendations on how to resolve the matter. Upon receiving the recommendations from the Regional Office, the Agency and the District will collaborate and re-evaluate available resources to determine how to implement the recommendations from the Regional Office.

Until the dispute is resolved, the student will be provided transportation in the most efficient manner.

**Part 6. Updates and Revisions**

Gillingham Charter School and Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services agree to update or revise this local transportation plan as needed or every three years to coincide with the contractual timelines.

**This agreement will be reviewed and approved by representatives of both agencies:**

Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services

324 N. Centre St.

Pottsville, PA 17901

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(CCYA)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(CCYA)

Gillingham Charter School

915 Howard Ave.

Pottsville, PA 17901

Printed Name: Nicolle Hutchinson

Signed: Nicolle Hutchinson Date: 3, 5, 25

**If you require extra space to describe your transportation plan, please attach an additional document.**