Foster Care Policy

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Foster Care Provisions establish, enhance and formalize collaborative working relationships between child welfare and local educational agencies.

Best Interest Determination

Freire ensures that foster students' best interests are in mind. This means that foster students shall remain at the School (school of origin), unless it is determined that it is not in his/her best interest. If remaining at Freire is not in his/her best interest, immediate enrollment in a new school and the transfer of school records shall be carried out by Freire.

Transportation

In collaboration with local child welfare agencies, Freire will develop written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of a child's time in foster care.

Foster Care Point of Contact (POC)

The Head of School, Academic Supports is Freire's Foster Care Point of Contact (POC). The Foster Care POC shall coordinate with state and local child welfare agencies, the State's Foster Care POC, and other school administrators on regarding the following responsibilities:

- Facilitation of professional development and staff training of Title I foster care provisions and needs of foster students, as needed;
- Best Interest Determination and documentation
- Transfer of student records, including immunizations, medical records, IEPs and Section 504 plans to ensure immediate enrollment
- Facilitation of data sharing and reporting, consistent with FERPA
- Development, implementation, and coordination of local transportation procedures
- Special education programming
- Ensuring the educational stability and safety of all foster students.