

Henry County Schools Foster Care Program Information for DFCS Case Managers

Enrollment:

- We want to keep kids in their original schools, especially high school students. Please do not hesitate to ask about transportation to keep the student in their original school even if it is just until the end of a grading period or semester.
- Please notify the Foster Care Liaison (FCL) as soon as possible when a student returns to their parent(s) or changes foster homes. The FCL will let the school know to communicate with the parent or foster parent to update contact information.
- We prefer that the foster parent complete the online registration for enrollment, not the DFCS Case Manager. The link for enrollment is <u>https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/135261</u>.
- It is very helpful if you can give the FCL notice that new students are enrolling and email a copy of the placement letter. We do understand if this is not possible.

Bus transportation:

- You must request transportation through the FCL.
- If you are not a Henry County DFCS Case Manager, please ask the FCL for a copy of the Transportation Plan to share with your Director.
- It can take up to 5-7 days to route a special bus within Henry for a foster student, so please be prepared with other arrangements. When coordinating between two school districts/counties, transportation can take up to 2 weeks to arrange.
- HCS Transportation will contact the foster parent to give the details (pick up time, bus number, drop off time, etc.).
- Please inform the FCL IMMEDIATELY if a child leaves a foster home or foster care so that special transportation can be changed or ended as soon as possible.

Free lunch applications:

- Foster parents should complete the application as soon as possible. It is available at:
- Foster parents only need to complete Sections 1 & 4 on the application. Be sure to mark the box that says "foster care" on the application. The application can be found at https://schoolwires.henry.kl2.ga.us/Page/110494.
- Sometimes the application can take some time to process. To avoid charges, please have the foster parent send money or a lunch with the student for a few days to avoid charges. We apologize for any delay.

What services are available to foster students in Henry County Schools? Please contact the Foster Care Liaison for assistance:

• Transportation assistance – (if your student is attending a school **outside** of the foster home's zoned

school)

- Tutoring due to very limited funding, tutoring is available to high school students only. *to begin after 2/21*
- School supplies please contact the Foster Care Liaison if supplies are needed
- Backpack Buddy programs
- Senior graduation greeting cards
- Assistance with IEPs, 504 meetings, and discipline meetings
- Best interest determinations
- Scholarship opportunities
- Clothing resources
- Need something else? Please ask! The Foster Care Liaison and School Social Workers have a wide network of resources available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Henry County Schools' Foster Care Liaison: Marsha Belflower Cell: 678 629-7024 <u>Marsha.Belflower@henry.k12.ga.us</u>

