



***Henry County Schools  
Foster Care Program  
Information for Foster Parents***

**Henry County Schools is devoted to empowering our students who are in foster care. Our mission is to remove barriers to their success.**

**What is the Fostering Connections Act?** The Fostering Connections Act was signed into law in October 2008. The Fostering Connections Act supports educational stability and continuity for all children in foster care.

**What are the students' rights under Fostering Connections?**

- Remain in their school of origin (the last school they attended), unless it is not in the child's best interest to stay. Best interest discussions usually focus on the age of the student, the length of time in the former school, or the distance from the new foster home.
- Reasonable and appropriate transportation to a child's school will be provided.
- If remaining in the same school is not in the child's best interest, immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school is required.
- If remaining in the same school is not in the child's best interest, all records must be transferred immediately upon request.
- Henry County Schools, DFCS, Foster Parents, and others will collaborate in order to provide adequate needs and services.

**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 your home's zoned school)
- Tutoring — due to limited funding, tutoring is available to high school students only. \*to begin after 2/21\*
- School supplies — please contact the Foster Care Liaison if you are interested
- Backpack Buddy programs

- Graduation greeting cards to celebrate seniors
- Assistance with IEPs, 504 meetings, and discipline meetings
- Best interest determinations
- Clothing resources
- ***Need something else? Please ask! The Foster Care Liaison and School Social Workers have a wide network of resources available.***

### **FYIs and Tips for Foster Parents:**

**Enrollment** - Students do not necessarily have to change schools when they change foster homes. Please consider allowing foster students to remain in their original schools, ***especially those in high school***. Transportation assistance may be available — check with your DFCS Case Manager or the Foster Care Liaison. Please notify the school that you are enrolling a foster child. Registration is currently online, and can be found here: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/135261>. Please note that we prefer that the foster parent complete the enrollment application, not the DFCS Case Manager. If you have any problems enrolling a foster student, please contact the Foster Care Liaison.

**Free Lunch Applications** - 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.** Sometimes the application can take time to process. To avoid charges, please send money or a lunch with your student for a few days. We apologize for any delay. The link for the free lunch application is <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/110494>.

**Discipline Meetings** – Please notify your DFCS Case Manager immediately if your student has a discipline meeting or situation.

**IEP Meetings** – Please notify your DFCS Case Manager immediately if your student has an IEP meeting or other special education services meeting.

**CAPS** - Funds are provided by DFCS to assist you with childcare. CAPS is accepted by Henry County Schools’ after school programs.

**Seniors** - FAFSA/financial aid applications open on October 1. Please make sure the Foster Care Liaison is aware of your foster care senior. We will include them in the graduation greeting card giveaway!

**Tutoring** - If your foster student is from Georgia, please talk to your DFCS Case Manager about tutoring through “EPAC”. If you need assistance, please contact the Foster Care Liaison. If your foster student is from another state, please consult the Foster Care Liaison for help. Henry County Schools does have a very limited amount of funding to assist those in foster care. Due to limited amounts, tutoring is only available to high school students in foster care. Please contact the Foster Care Liaison for help. Funding will be available after 2/21.

*Thank you for the care and concern that you give these students!! Please let us know if we can assist in any way.*

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**Foster Care Liaison**  
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