

# Education and Child Welfare Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Designated Points of Contact for Students in Foster Care

ESSA requires designated points of contact for child welfare and education agencies to support school stability for students in foster care (i.e., education best-interest, transportation coordination).

Every year, the local child welfare agency must notify the local education agency (LEA) of their child welfare point of contact. After this notification is received, the LEA is required to inform the local child welfare agency of their designated point of contact in writing. The Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) Educational Specialist serves as the Child Welfare Point of Contact for ESSA purposes. Similarly, the LEA Point of Contact for ESSA, in most instances, is the LEA Foster Care Liaison. The chart below maps an annual communication process and timeline for when Points of Contact notifications occur.

Additional information about the Education and Child Welfare ESSA Points of Contact can be found in the [Foster Care & Student Success Guide, Chapter 8](#).

## DFPS Education Specialist Communication to LEAs

### AUGUST:

DFPS Education Specialist sends email to the LEA Foster Care Liaison contact identified in AskTED (includes both districts and open-enrollment charter schools).

### 7-10 DAYS:

Upon receipt, the LEA responds to the DFPS Education Specialist with the name of the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact (who in most instances is the LEA Foster Care Liaison).

### 1 WEEK FOLLOW-UP:

If no response from the LEA after 10 days, DFPS resends the introduction email to the LEA Foster Care Liaison. If communication is not received back from the LEA, DFPS may contact the LEA Administration/Superintendent's Office, to receive the necessary contact information of the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact.

### EXPECTATIONS:

DFPS Education Specialists will communicate via email to the LEA annually and identify themselves as the point of contact, provide their contact information to the Foster Care Liaison as a resource for any questions or concerns involving students in foster care. It is the expectations that the LEA will respond promptly with the corresponding LEA ESSA Foster Care Point of Contact information. DFPS Education Specialists should be the first point of contact to resolve any issues related to students in foster care.



## LEA Foster Care Point of Contact Communication to DFPS Education Specialist

### AUGUST:

Receives an email from DFPS Education Specialist identifying themselves as the point of contact for questions related to students in foster care.

### 7-10 DAYS:

Responds to the DFPS Education Specialist with the name of the ESSA Point of Contact for their LEA. (In instances, where the LEA has designated individual campus contacts for Foster Care, also include this information in the LEA's correspondence communication with DFPS).

### 1 WEEK FOLLOW-UP:

If DFPS does not hear back from the LEA Foster Care Liaison, they will re-send the information and follow-up within 10 days. If they still do not hear back, they may contact the LEA Administration/Superintendent's office to request this information.

### EXPECTATIONS:

LEAs are required to ensure that the Foster Care Liaison in AskTED is up to date annually. This should occur prior to August for the upcoming school year. DFPS will utilize the Foster Care Liaison contact information in AskTED to notify the LEA of the ESSA Child Welfare Point of Contact (i.e. DFPS Education Specialist). LEAs are to respond promptly, in writing, to the DFPS Education Specialist with the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact and utilize the DFPS Education Specialist for any questions or concerns related to students in foster care throughout the school year.