

# Vista College Preparatory, Inc.

## Foster Care Point of Contact:

Kela Powers

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480.463.4926

Any additional Federal Program roles? List here, if so: McKinney Vento Liaison

## LEA Director

Julia Meyerson

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602.625.7893

## 2. Transportation During the BID Process

Children in foster care must remain at their school of origin throughout the best interest determination (BID) process. The Foster Care Point of Contact is charged with making the initial identification of a student in foster care and begins enrollment procedures including the need of transportation. At Vista College Prep, a child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved. Transportation during the BID process means that Vista College Prep, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin during the BID process. This differs from transportation options after the BID process which are described below.

Specifically, Vista College Prep's assigned Foster Care Point of Contact will collaborate with the local CWA upon receiving notice that an enrolled child is in foster care. During that time, Vista College Prep and the CWA will work together to provide transportation to the student's school of origin. Transportation options include current, contracted busses or ride-share, foster care parent travel and reimbursements, or continued transportation via another LEA program such as SPED/IDEA. Transportation during the BID process differs from transportation after the BID outcome in that the child remains in the school of origin. Using the same forms and procedures as for McKinney Vento students, the site's Foster Care Point of Contact will manage the transportation process in communication with the site Director and the CWA. The team will meet on an as-needed basis and final steps monitored by the Site leader. Academic supports provided during the implementation of transportation during the BID process includes schoolwork sent home with students, access to online academic programs, and continued communication with the teacher. Vista College Prep will ensure that the child remains in his or her school of origin throughout the Best Interest Determination process. Once the process is

finalized, there will be a determination of either remaining with the school of origin or transferring to the school of residence.

### **3. Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care to their School of Origin**

The Foster Care Point of Contact will be in contact with the foster care families and CWA and thus be able to best address the potential for long-term transportation needs after the BID process.

After the BID process is completed and if Vista College Prep is the school of origin and the student remains within the district, the foster care POC will ensure that the LEA will continue to transport this child in the same manner as the rest of their students. For instance, at Vista College Prep, the foster care caregiver or other responsible adult is allowed to transport the child in foster care to the school site.

Transportation after the BID outcome can include funding transportation to the school of origin or to the school of residence. For students whose school of origin is outside of the LEA, Vista College Prep will collaborate with the local CWA to provide, arrange, and fund transportation to that school using the most prompt and cost-effective methods. Transportation options include contracted bus routes or ride-shares, foster care parent travel and reimbursements, or continued transportation via another LEA program such as SPED/IDEA. The goal is to ensure that a child in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)). Vista College Prep is a 5 site LEA and will use the same forms and procedures as for McKinney Vento students. The site's Foster Care Point of Contact will manage the transportation process in communication with the site Director and the CWA. The team will meet on an as-needed basis and final steps monitored by the Site leader

Vista College Prep funding sources include McKinney Vento funds, and Transportation M&O funds. The LEA and CWA will utilize cost effective means of existing bus routes, bus tickets, mileage reimbursements, outside transportation companies or, if available, create bus routes to meet the transportation needs of students in Foster Care. Because Vista College Prep can contract with a third-party, ride share vendor, there is no lag expected between identification of need for transportation and transportation being provided.

The site's Foster Care Point of Contact will manage the transportation process in communication with the site Director and the CWA. The team will meet on an as-needed basis and final steps monitored by the Site leader. The site has a bus route and additional options are available via interim or long-term transportation needs. The LEA does offer a set number of bus

routes throughout a 3-5 mile radius around the sites. These routes would also be offered to any foster care children in alignment with the determination coming out of the BID process. The goal is to ensure that children in foster care will not have a lapse in school attendance at the school of origin.

Vista College Prep will provide academic support during the implementation of transportation during the BID process including but not limited to , schoolwork sent home with students, access to the online platforms and continued communication with school staff.

## 4. Foster Care Transportation Additional Costs

### **Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to seek reimbursement from the CWA. \***

Detail your LEA's policy to determine when and how the LEA would seek reimbursements from the CWA to provide transportation for children in foster care to their school of origin (i.e. any mileage over/under X miles, any cost over/under X dollars, specific situations, when certain transportation methods are used, how will the reimbursement be collected, etc).

If the student is located outside of walking distance to the school, Vista College Prep will request the CWA share or reimburse the transportation costs. The determination of one of the means of transportation listed above will be determined by the wishes of the foster family, the CWA, the distance and time required for travel, and the wishes/safety of the child. The CWA will be asked to cover additional costs defined as "the difference between what an LEA otherwise would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school and the cost of transporting a child in foster care to his or her school of origin." Vista College Prep will ensure that additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, and will provide transportation to the school of origin if— (I) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation; (II) the local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or (III) the local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation; ..." Again, the best transportation mode would be provided based on consultation with the CWA, families if applicable, and the old/new school foster care points of contact. Transportation options include contracted vendors, bus routes, and family/staff transportation. The Foster Care Point of Contact and the site's business manager would also make arrangements for how reimbursement would be collected. Reimbursement will be sought from the CWA for any mileage over 5 miles one way.

## **7. Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation \***

Detail your LEA's policy to determine when and how the LEA would solely provide transportation for children in foster care to their school of origin (i.e. any mileage over/under X miles, any cost over/under X dollars, when certain transportation methods are used, specific situations, etc.)

The LEA would solely provide transportation if the student is within walking distance as the charter does not have existing transportation boundaries. The best transportation mode would be provided based on consultation with the CWA, families if applicable, and the old/new school foster care point of contact staff. The Foster Care Point of Contact and the site's business manager would also make arrangements for how reimbursement would be collected if needed. The transportation modes that Vista College Prep can access include an activity van, parent transportation, bus passes, and third party-vendors. Reimbursement will be sought from the CWA for any mileage over 5 miles one way. There isn't a set number of dollars that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation as Vista College Prep is a charter school without existing transportation boundaries.

## **8. Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to agree to share the cost with the CWA \***

Detail your LEA's policy to determine when and how the LEA would share the cost with the CWA to provide transportation for children in foster care to their school of origin (i.e. any mileage over/under X miles, any cost over/under X dollars, when certain transportation methods are used, specific situations, etc).

Vista College Prep would agree to share transportation costs with the CWA if one of their students is in foster care and is being transported to another school. The best transportation mode would be provided based on consultation with the CWA, families if applicable, and the old/new school staff. The transportation modes that Vista College Prep can access include an activity van, parent transportation, bus passes, and third party-vendors. Reimbursement will be sought from the CWA for any mileage over 5 miles one way. There isn't a set number of dollars that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation as Vista College Prep is a charter school without existing transportation boundaries. The cost-sharing agreement will be a collaboratively developed MOU with the CWA and outlines when and how much Vista College Prep agrees to share the cost of transportation with the CWA (i.e. LEA does the AM route and CWA does the PM route, LEA and CWA each agree to provide a set percentage of the transportation, LEA and CWA both agree to pay a certain percentage of the cost of the transportation).

## FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE

For the purposes of collaborating with the child welfare agency, the state education agency, and all foster care education stakeholders, the approved foster care transportation plan and the contact information for the foster care point of contact will be made publicly available on the LEA website?

Yes