



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

May 17, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) POINTS OF CONTACT

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF ESSA POINTS OF CONTACT

In 2015, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law. A component of ESSA is to uphold critical connections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students. Children and youth experiencing foster care are eligible for additional supports because of ESSA. These provisions (ESSA Foster Care) complement the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act). These laws strengthen opportunities for educational agencies and child welfare agencies to jointly determine the most effective practices while promoting school stability and success for students.

For the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), ESSA requires greater protections for all disadvantaged and high-need students, including students in foster care. One such protection includes the requirement that the academic performance of these students must be tracked. To facilitate implementation of ESSA as it applied to students in the custody of a county child welfare agency, DPI partnered with the SERVE Center at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The SERVE Center provides training to DPI staff and works to ensure DPI complies with ESSA requirements. NCDSS and NC DPI will collaborate to provide training to county child welfare agency ESSA points of contact in the Fall of 2022.

Next Steps:

To ensure DPI has the correct person of contact for each County DSS agency, county child welfare agencies must immediately take the following steps:

1. Go to <https://serve.uncg.edu/projects/nc-foster-care/> and scroll to the bottom of the page.
2. Click on "Child Welfare ESSA Point of Contact" to open an Excel spreadsheet to determine if the person of contact is current.
3. If the person of contact needs to be updated, please return to the website, and click on "Contact Information form for the NC Welfare Agency Point of Contact."

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-334-1123

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

A future DCDL will provide information on trainings and support for DSS ESSA points of contact.

Thank you for your interest in supporting the educational needs of children and youth in North Carolina's foster care system. Should you have questions, please contact Foster Care Coordinator Jessica Frisina at Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human
Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director of Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

CWS-25-2022