



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK  
SR. DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND COUNTY OPERATIONS

February 1, 2017

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS AND PROGRAM CHILD WELFARE MANAGERS**

**SUBJECT: EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)**

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides key protections for children in foster care requiring public educational agencies to collaborate with child welfare agencies to address the educational stability of children in foster care. Public education agencies must work with child welfare agencies to ensure that children served by the foster care program experience minimal educational disruption resulting from their foster care placement and placement changes. The act also stipulates requirements to ensure children and youth served by Foster Care receive equivalent educational opportunities as the general population. Attached is a guide developed jointly by the North Carolina Division of Social Services and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; "Every Student Succeeds Act: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children and Youth in Foster Care in North Carolina". To aide in the communication between local agencies, three new forms are being provided. The policies are in the final stages of development. Those policies will provide instructions related to the claiming of state and federal funds for the cost of transportation of children and youth in support of their educational stability. The attached guidance and forms are being release as available to assist in the implementation of the communication between Child Welfare agencies and public education agencies.

- NC Foster Care Notification of Placement Change form
- NC Foster Care Immediate Enrollment form
- NC Best Interest Determination form

In collaboration with NC Department of Education, the following training sessions have been developed to aide in the communications and protocol development between local education authority and county children welfare agency. These events will provide an opportunity to discuss and develop collaborative processes and transportation options.

All sessions will be held from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

- Feb. 2, 2017 - North Central Region - Wilson Co. DSS (Wilson Co.)
- Feb. 6, 2017 - Southwest Region - Rader Staff Development Center (Gaston Co.)
- Feb. 7, 2017 - Sandhills Region - Richmond Co. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy (Richmond Co.)
- Feb. 21, 2017 - Western Region - TD Bank Building (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) - (Buncombe Co.)
- Feb. 22, 2017 - Northwest Region - Wilkes Agricultural Conference Center (Wilkes Co.)
- March 2, 2017 - Northeast Region - Beaufort Co. Ed. Tech. Center - Training Facility (Beaufort Co.)
- March 3, 2017 - Southeast Region - Teachers Memorial School (Lenoir Co.)

To register for any of the sessions noted above, please use the [registration link here](https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3BEJvQeo8zJgKbP).  
[https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3BEJvQeo8zJgKbP](https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3BEJvQeo8zJgKbP)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" at the beginning.

Kevin Kelley, Section Chief  
Child Welfare Services

Attachment (1)

1. Every Student Succeeds Act: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children and Youth in Foster Care in North Carolina

CWS-01-2017