



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

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December 20, 2017

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE STAFF**

**SUBJECT: EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) POINTS OF CONTACT FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

As with placement stability, education stability is a critical service delivery dimension for all children in a county child welfare agency's custody. Preserving a child's education setting when entering custody or when a placement change is necessary requires significant collaboration with the educational system.

For the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) ESSA required greater protections for all disadvantaged and high-need students, including students in foster care, and requirements that the academic performance for these students 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. SERVE provides training to DPI staff and works to ensure that DPI complies with ESSA requirements. Recently the SERVE Center updated their web site, causing a change to the web site address for ESSA resources. Following is the new link to information regarding ESSA, including the Local Education Agency Points of Contact directory located at the bottom of the page: <https://serve.uncg.edu/projects/nc-foster-care/>

As a reminder, the NC DHHS CW Section contact for support regarding issues that arise between the county child welfare agency and a local educational agency is Betty Kelly ([Betty.Kelly@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Betty.Kelly@dhhs.nc.gov), (919-527-6343).

Please distribute this information to the appropriate staff in your county.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa T. Cauley".

Lisa T. Cauley  
Deputy Director

CWS-46-2017