



# CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION TASK FORCE

## **School of Origin Transportation Funding**

### **Now Available for Local Education Agencies**

Youth in foster care have the right to attend their school of origin after a home placement change unless their education rights holder determines it is in their best interest to change school placements. Youth also have an accompanying right to transportation to their school of origin. Stability is vital to social-emotional and academic development for youth. In fact, data shows that in California, one third of youth in foster care change schools one or more times during the school year, and each school change leads to decreases in academic achievement. However, this right to transportation can be costly, and identifying sources for funding difficult. (If you want to know more about holding best interest determination meetings, and coordinating transportation to school of origin, see [School of Origin Transportation for Youth in Foster Care](#).)

### **School of Origin Transportation Funded as Eligible Expenditure in Transportation Plans**

**The 2022 Budget Act allows school of origin transportation funding as an eligible expenditure in school transportation plans. Communicate with the administrators coordinating your district or county office of education's (COE) transportation plan to ensure the plan includes allocations for school of origin transportation. (For the language in the law, see California Education Code Sections 39800.1 and 41850.1)**

**Here are some facts about the increased funding for school of origin transportation:**

- School districts and COEs can get reimbursed up to 60% for eligible home-to-school transportation expenditures.
- The change in law does not create a new obligation to provide transportation. However, if a district/COE wants to receive this money, they must adopt local plans by April 1, 2023 (updated annually) that describe the transportation services the district/COE will provide.
- Plans must be developed in consultation with stakeholders (e.g. foster youth liaisons, caregivers, and students in foster care).
- Priority must be given to “unduplicated students”, which includes youth in foster care.
- Eligible expenses must involve “activities concerned with conveying students to and from school”, meaning this is designed to facilitate the type of home-to-school transportation required under school of origin laws, and cannot be utilized for field trips, extracurricular participation, etc.
- Funds are not limited by minimum or maximum distance requirements. Therefore, funds can be used to support students who live outside district/COE boundaries.
- In addition to internal resources such as staffing, training, fuel, etc., plans may include entering into contracts with other entities to provide transportation, such as rideshare services or municipal transit systems.