

Putnam County Public Schools Foster Care

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Revised August 2017

Dispute Resolution Process

Disputes and disagreements are to be settled as close to the point of conflict as possible. The Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) shall assist the family and school to ensure compliance with federal and state legislation and policy governing the education of children and youth in foster care. The POC shall work with appropriate local school representatives to address any policies or procedures that are identified as barriers in the access to and success within a free appropriate public education.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the LEA must immediately enroll the foster care student in either the school of origin or the school of residency, pending resolution of the dispute. The LEA must also provide transportation to the selected school for the duration of the dispute resolution process. In cases of an inter-district dispute, the LEA of origin and the LEA in which the foster care child or youth is living must agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the LEAs cannot agree upon a method, the responsibility and costs for transportation are to be shared equally.

With the help of the local POC, the parent, guardian, or youth shall work through the expedited Dispute Resolution Process established by the LEA. The LEA shall provide the foster care youth with a written notice of the LEA's decision regarding school selection or enrollment and their right to appeal, and copy the POC. If the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth is dissatisfied with the resolution, he or she may appeal the decision to the FDOE, with the assistance of the POC.

The SEA Foster Care Liaison will process the appeal and serve as the final determinant if there cannot be resolution at the LEA level.

We are awaiting guidance from FLDOE Foster Care Division and will upload additional forms as they become available.