

POLICY 411.3

ENSURING THE EDUCATIONAL STABILITY OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE (FOSTER CARE)

The District shall collaborate with the county child welfare agency [and tribal child welfare agency as applicable] in ensuring the educational stability of children in out-of-home care (foster care). "Foster care" refers to 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents and guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placement in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes. To the extent required under applicable law, a child in foster care under this policy also includes children who an appropriate child welfare agency indicates are awaiting a foster care placement.

Children in foster care shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children in the River Valley School District. They shall be provided the services and have access to the programs and activities that are offered to other children attending River Valley School District schools, including educational services for which the children meet eligibility criteria (e.g., special education, Title I programming, programs and services for English Learners, gifted and talented programming, etc.), career and technical education programs, and school nutrition programs.

The Pupil Services Director has primary administrative-level oversight of the River Valley School District's services for children who are in foster care. He/she, or a qualified administrative-level designee, shall be responsible for (1) providing any required assurances to applicable state and federal agencies that the River Valley School District is complying with applicable state and federal requirements related to ensuring the educational stability of children in foster care; and (2) reasonably monitoring compliance with such assurances.

The Pupil Services Director shall designate a staff member who shall serve as the River Valley School District's primary point of contact for the education of children in foster care. The district's designated point of contact will be the primary liaison for the representatives of child welfare agencies who also have responsibility for ensuring the educational stability of children in foster care.

The district's point of contact for the education of children in foster care will work with administrators and other district personnel to periodically review existing policies, procedures, practices, and data to identify and develop proposals to remedy and remove barriers that children in foster care may face in the school enrollment and admission processes, in regularly attending school, in accessing applicable support services (such as school counselors), in accessing academic programs, academic activities, or co-curricular activities, or in receiving appropriate credit for prior academic work.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes Section 48.38(4), Section 48.383,
Section 48.64(1r), Section 48.78, Section 115.298(1)(b),
Section 118.125(2)(q), Section 938.78
Federal Laws Title I, Part A of the Elementary and
Secondary Education Act, Title IV of the Social Security
Act