

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**MAY 2, 2017**

**STREAMLINING FUNDS FOR FOSTER YOUTH SCHOOL STABILITY**

In response to the "School Stability for Foster Children" (Barger/Ridley-Thomas) motion approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on February 7, 2017, the Office of Child Protection (OCP) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), in coordination with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), submitted a written report to the Board on April 7, 2017, on an implementation plan to fully comply with the provisions of the Federal Every Student Succeeds (ESSA) Act related to school stability for foster children.

The reported plan, developed in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE); the Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council (ECC); County Counsel; interested public interest law firms; philanthropy; school districts, and community-based organizations that serve foster youth, proposes a Pilot Agreement to provide foster youth with transportation to and from their schools of origin.

The proposed pilot program would be implemented from May to December 2017, during which time the workgroup would create a thoughtful and informed transportation plan that school districts and DCFS can utilize for their long-term transportation agreements. The pilot program would serve foster youth in need of transportation to and from their schools of origin throughout Los Angeles County (County) and include transportation methods such as:

- Metro TAP cards;
- Caregiver reimbursements from DCFS; and / or
- District-to-district transportation through a safe, child-friendly private car service vendor when other transportation options are not accessible and/or feasible for a foster youth.

LACOE will coordinate the district-to-district transportation and is exploring opportunities to contract with a safe, child-friendly private car service. Additionally, the pilot program would utilize an electronic notification process between DCFS, LACOE, and school districts to alert these parties when children are removed from the home and may need transportation to and from their schools of origin.

-MORE-

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

ESSA requires that each State submit a comprehensive set of assurances to the United States Department of Education (DOE) in order to receive Federal allocations. In March of 2017, DOE released a Revised State Template for the Consolidated State Plan for ESSA. This stated that DOE would publish information on the collection of these assurances no later than June 2017. This pilot program would allow every school district in the County to make those assurances by June. Furthermore, the pilot program would provide data on the barriers, costs, and number of youth that will need transportation in the long term. This information is essential to understanding the barriers in transporting youth to their schools of origin within and between districts.

Since the proposed pilot is scheduled to begin in May, a month of data on the number of youth, costs, and barriers to implementing transportation to schools of origin during the academic year would be available. This would provide the Transportation Workgroup (comprised of representatives from OCP, LACOE, DCFS and others) with lessons learned and provide some time during the summer for solutions to be implemented before the new school year commences in September. Ultimately, the data from the six months of this pilot will also inform the long-term transportation agreements between DCFS and the districts.

This collaborative pilot program will be funded by LACOE, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and DCFS. LACOE will contribute \$100,000 in addition to the in-kind services of hiring transportation contractors. LAUSD will contribute \$100,000, which will include in-kind services for transportation within LAUSD boundaries. DCFS will contribute \$300,000 to serve the students in select other school districts within the County. It is necessary to expedite the launch of the pilot program to ensure foster youth across the County can remain in their schools of origin.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Acting Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to:

1. Enter into an Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and one or more local school districts to transport foster children to their schools of origin from their out-of-home care placements when necessary;
2. Provide LACOE with \$300,000 from the existing DCFS budget to fund a portion of the costs associated with this effort.

# # #