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Colt Gill

Acting Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

To: School District Superintendents, Foster Care Contacts, Business Managers and Transportation Directors

From: Sarah Drinkwater, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Subject: Foster Student School of Origin Transportation Reimbursement

In accordance with the federal law, ***Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)***, students in foster care are required to remain in their ***school district/school of origin***, even when their foster home placement changes, for the duration of the student's time in foster care unless a determination has been made by a Juvenile Court judge that it is not in the best interest of the student to continue to attend their ***school districts/school of origin***. In order to implement ESSA's Foster Care mandates, ***school districts of origin*** are required to provide transportation between the student's foster home and the school district/school of origin.

SB 20, effective July 1, 2017, implements ***ESSA*** and directs the Department of Education (ODE), the Department of Human Services (DHS) and school districts to collaborate to ensure that ESSA is fully implemented. To support that effort, ODE and DHS have created an agreement in order to access federal funding that is available to help pay for the ***school district of origin*** transportation costs. ODE is working on a process to pass this funding on to school districts and, due to a 2015 change in Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs), make transportation of foster care students under ESSA cost neutral.

Based on the agreement with DHS, school districts will be asked to submit a quarterly invoice for the cost to transport foster care students to their school of origin. Districts will report the full cost, and this grant from DHS will reimburse the cost of transportation not already covered by the transportation grant of the state school fund (SSF). OAR 581-023-0040 specifies that money received from this DHS grant does not reduce the amount that can be claimed for reimbursement through the SSF transportation grant.

ODE is requesting that school districts submit invoice for Quarter 1 (*July 1, 2017 – September 30, 2017*), by February 28, 2018, followed by submission of the 2nd Quarter (*October 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017*), invoice by March 30, 2018. This will bring us in line with the Invoice Reimbursement Request being due 45 days after the end of each quarter, Quarter 3 (*January 1, 2018 – March 30, 2018*), due *May 15, 2018*.

A special invoice is being created and will be posted to ODE's Fostering Connections website by February 1, 2018. We will notify school districts through appropriate listserv messages once the invoice is available. Because we will require the use of this invoice to process claims, here is the information we will be asking for, so that you may begin to adapt your internal processes for data collection:

- Student Name
- SSID #
- DHS Case #
- Start date of foster care transportation
- End date of foster care transportation
- Average miles transported (one way)
- Total cost of transportation (per day)

Upon receipt, ODE will analyze and approve reimbursement claims. ODE will then submit documentation to DHS, who will provide us funding for the quarter. Simultaneously, ODE will set up awards through the Electronic Grant Management System (EGMS) for districts to claim funds. Once funding is secured from DHS, ODE will approve claims in EGMS and districts will be able to secure their funding.

Thank You for partnering with ODE as we strive to provide and implement this reimbursement process to encourage school stability for the Foster Students of Oregon! Additional information can be located by accessing the ODE website @ <http://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/fosteringconnections> .