

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #13

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Every Child Succeeds Act of 2015 Foster Youth and Juvenile Justice Provisions:

Students in foster care are more likely than their peers to experience adverse educational outcomes. These adverse outcomes are, at least in part, linked to the high mobility often characteristic of children in foster care. Both the recently enacted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 recognize this challenge and include vital protections to enhance the educational stability of this vulnerable student population.

As evidenced by both laws, collaboration between child welfare and education agencies is integral to ensuring educational stability for students in foster care. The U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released joint non-regulatory guidance on the new ESSA foster care provisions that aim to guide these agencies in ensuring educational stability for the nearly 270,000 school-aged children in foster care across the country.

In SAU 13, the school districts of Freedom, Madison, and Tamworth, we have designated the school guidance counselor as a POC (Point of Contact) for the Foster Child(ren)'s CWA (Child Welfare Agency) representative in each of our schools. The POC is assigned to assist the CWA in determining school enrollment, transportation and other assistance the Foster Child(ren) may need for a smooth transition.