

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

The Rice Lake Area School District shall collaborate with the county child welfare agency 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, childcare 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 District. They shall be provided the services and have access to the programs and activities that are offered to other children attending District schools, including educational services for which the children meet eligibility criteria (e.g., special education, Title I programming, programs and services for English Language Learners, Advanced Learning programming, etc.), career and technical education programs, and school nutrition programs.

The Director of Special Education and Pupil Services will have primary administrative-level oversight of the District’s services for children who are in foster care. The Director of Special Education and Pupil Services shall be responsible for (1) providing any required assurances to applicable state and federal agencies that the District is complying with applicable state and federal requirements related to ensuring the educational stability of children in foster care, and (2) reasonable monitoring compliance with such assurances. The Director of Special Education and Pupil Services 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.

It is the policy of the Rice Lake Area School District, pursuant to s. 118.13 of Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter PI 9 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, that no person may be denied admission to any school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity on the basis of the protected classes of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

Legal Ref: 48.38(4); 48.383, 48.64(1r), 48.78, 115.298(1)(b), 118.125(2)(q), 938.78 WSS;
Federal laws: Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA);
Title IV of the Social Security Act; Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing
Adoptions Act; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Cross Ref: Policy 347 Pupil Records, Policy 411 Student Nondiscrimination and Equal
Educational Opportunities, Policy 420 School Admissions, Policy 751 Student
Transportation Services, Policy 760 Foods Services Management

Adopted: 11/11/19

Revised: