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**Role of State Education Agency and
Local Education Agency
Foster Care Point of Contact**

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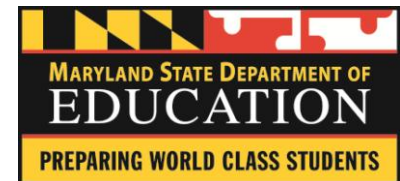
Maryland is considered a “covered” State by the US Department of Education

- **Maryland has until December 10, 2017 to remove ‘awaiting foster care’ from COMAR;**
- **Assist Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Child Welfare Agencies (CWAs) to the develop of education stability plans for foster children**

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PRIORITY AREAS

- **Transportation - Role in providing transportation to school of origin**
- **Additional costs for transportation – what LEA would otherwise spend to transport a student to assigned school and cost of transporting a foster care child to school of origin.**
- **Coordinating with the child welfare agency (CWA)
Point of Contact (POC)**



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Role and Responsibilities for SEA Point of Contact (POC)

- Coordinating with the corresponding State and tribal child welfare agency POCs to issue joint State guidance for the implementation of the Title I provisions, which should include:

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- **Establishment of uniform criteria around the best interest determination factors;**
- **Establishment of guidelines for transportation procedures, including how transportation will be addressed across district and State lines and what should be included in local transportation procedures;**

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- **Facilitating data sharing with the State and tribal child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA and other Federal or State privacy laws, regulations, and policies;**
- **Monitoring LEAs to ensure compliance with the Title I requirements at the local level;**

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- **Providing professional development opportunities and technical assistance for LEA POCs and other personnel regarding school stability and educational supports for children in foster care, as needed; and**
- **Issue State-specific guidance that details the roles and responsibilities of the SEA POC.**

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- **Role and Responsibilities for the Local Educational Agencies POC may include:**
 - **Coordinating with the corresponding child welfare agency POC on the implementation of the Title I provisions;**
 - **Leading the development of a process for making the best interest determination;**

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- Documenting the best interest determination;
- Facilitating the transfer of records and immediate enrollment;
- Facilitating data sharing with the child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols;
- Developing and coordinating local transportation procedures;

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- Managing best interest determinations and transportation costs disputes;
- Ensuring that children in foster care are enrolled in and regularly attending school; and
- Providing professional development and training to school staff on the Title I provisions and educational needs of children in foster care, as needed.