

**Overview:** Rochester Prep is committed to supporting students who are in or awaiting foster care placement. We are committed to ensuring these students can attend our schools regardless of location or placement.

While the McKinney Vento Act does not cover students who are in foster care or awaiting foster care, Rochester Prep extends all McKinney Vento protocols to these students because studies show that students in and waiting for foster care, much like their peers experiencing homelessness, are more likely to struggle in school and are less likely to graduate. This is also federal law under ESSA as of December 2016.

**Foster Care Liaison:** Each school designates a point person who ensures that schools are compliant with federal regulations and serves as a contact/point person for students in foster care or awaiting placement. At Rochester Prep the Social Worker at each school fulfills this liaison role.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** In order to fully support students in or awaiting foster care, both school operations teams and Foster Care liaisons share responsibility. The chart below outlines who is responsible at the school for each action or support given to affected students, with links to the protocols for each responsibility.

Operations	Social Workers (Foster Care Liaisons)
<a href="#">Ensure families fill out residency questionnaire at registration and provide to Social Worker</a>	<a href="#">Review residency questionnaires to determine which students are in foster care</a>
<a href="#">Ensure families fill out a new residency questionnaire each time they make an address change and provide to Social Worker</a>	<a href="#">Communicator/point person for families &amp; placement agencies</a>
<a href="#">Update student status in PowerSchool &amp; SIRS System</a>	<a href="#">Assist family in obtaining any necessary immunizations or other required health records</a>
<a href="#">Ensure students are listed as free lunch without needing to complete a FRPL form</a>	<a href="#">Work with family to get them any additional services</a>

**Additional details about how Rochester Prep supports students experiencing homelessness and in or awaiting foster care:**

**All families to fill out residency questionnaire at registration and provide to Social Worker for review**  
 At the point of registration this questionnaire is given to families before completing any other documentation so we can assess if a student is in foster placement. If it is indicated that the student is in or awaiting foster placement, the student is automatically enrolled regardless if they have any supporting documents (immunizations, school records, etc), this includes students with IEPs. If they do not have supporting documents for registration, Liaisons (social workers) should work with the placement agency & foster family while the student is already enrolled to obtain these documents. After registration is complete the questionnaire should be given to the Liaison (social worker) immediately to review and to reach out to families.

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**All families fill out a new residency questionnaire each time they make an address change and provide to Social Worker**

See above process for “All families fill out residency questionnaire at registration.” The same steps are completed each time the school is notified of an address change. This is reviewed immediately upon completion to ensure all students who have been placed in or are awaiting foster care and receive all transportation and services needed to continue to attend Rochester Prep.

If a student who is already enrolled at Rochester Prep is placed in foster care, all of the same supports are provided as new students who are enrolled. Rochester Prep believes all students should have access to a quality education and that students needs are best met when their education is not disrupted. We ensure all students can continue to attend our schools regardless of placement into other temporary living arrangements that may be outside of the current district. See below for additional transportation services that make this possible.

**Update student status in PowerSchool & SIRS System**

All students experiencing foster placement are marked accordingly in the Powerschool student information system. The information from this system is then fed to the SIRS system, which is the principal repository for student information in New York State.

**Ensure students are listed as free lunch without needing to complete a FRPL form**

Students experiencing foster placement automatically receive free meals and are not required to complete a FRPL form. The PowerSchool system will be updated to reflect the FDC lunch status, which is then fed to the SIRS system in the Program Fact template. All students at Rochester Prep receive food for free regardless of FRPL status. Rochester Prep participates in the Community Eligibility Provision, so meals are never an issue for our students experiencing foster placement.

**Residency questionnaires are reviewed by liaisons to determine which students are in or awaiting foster placement**

Operations staff give all residency questionnaires to social workers to review. Social Workers should determine which students are in or awaiting foster placement and then do the following for those students:

- Confirm with Operations that PowerSchool is updated
- Reach out to those families to introduce self and find out what supports the family is in need of:
  - Do they need a backpack? Uniform items? Other school supplies not already provided by the school?
  - Explain what will happen with bussing
  - Do they need to get signed up for afterschool programs?
  - Do they need transportation to participate in extra-curricular activities and summer school if the lack of transportation poses a barrier?
  - Do they need help getting copies of medical records?
  - Are there other ways the school can support them to ensure the scholar can attend Rochester Prep?

**Assist family in obtaining any necessary immunizations or other required health records**

Families that are struggling to bring in copies of necessary immunizations or other required health records are enrolled automatically even without these documents. Social Workers should help the family in obtaining such records if needed and coordinate with the placement agency.

**Work with family to get them any services they need**

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As mentioned above, the Liaison is the first point of contact and support the family to help them get any services they need such as:

- Basic/emergency supplies
- Extended library hours/after school programs
- Transportation to participate in extra-curricular activities and summer school
- Counseling services
- Parental involvement
- Intervention programs