

# Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Education and Developmental Services Section



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## School of Origin Transportation Program



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was established to provide all children a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. One of the key provisions requires Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Public Child Welfare agencies (DCFS) to collaborate and ensure that transportation to the school of origin (SOO) is provided/available to youth in foster care. To address this need, DCFS, in partnership with some school districts, is currently operating the following program:



**School of Origin (SOO) Transportation Program:** Transports youth, in out of home care, to their school of origin. Below are quick facts about the program for FY 24-25:

1. 896 youth were transported to their SOO
2. A total of 89,668 individual rides were completed
3. Cancellation Rate was 5.9%, which is a decrease from our highest rate at 13%
4. LEAs with the highest utilization include:
  1. Los Angeles Unified School District (311)
  2. Antelope Valley Union High School District (106)
  3. Long Beach Unified School District (85)
  4. Lancaster School District (50)
  5. Palmdale School District (39)



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## SOO MOU



The MOU was first implemented in 2019. The MOU is an agreement between DCFS and LEAs to share cost in providing transportation to a youth in foster care to their SOO.

1. There are a total of 77 LEAs currently participating, in the MOU, including 56 School Districts and 21 Independent Charters.
2. Seven out of 77 LEAs were onboarded in FY 24-25.
3. We are in the process of updating the MOU. The key issues in the MOU that are being discussed include data sharing and identifying activities that are in the best interest of the students and should be included in the transportation to SOO.



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## Student Transportation and Extracurricular Enrichment Ride (STEER) Program



The STEER program was established on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, with Flexible Family Support (FFS) funding to provide transportation assistance to youth that are not eligible for the SOO Transportation program. The program is funded through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

For FY24-25, a total of:

- **470 youth were transported through STEER**
- **19,013 individual rides were completed**
- **220 youth were transported to their SOO**
- **184 youth were transported to their extracurricular and school related activities**

In addition, the cancellation rate for FY 24-25 was nine (9) percent.



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## DCFS 1399 Form

Update on DCFS 1399 Form:

- Working on updating the current form with the Alliance of Children's Rights, OCP, and PUSD.
- DCFS is internally exploring the feasibility of automating a notification to the LEAs when a placement change may/has occurred



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## Questions



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# Thank You

## Let's Stay Connected!

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