**PCSD Foster Care Transportation Services**

**Effective: December 10, 2016**

The Paulding County School District Title I, Part A Department is proud to announce our partnership with the Department of Family and Children Services and other child welfare agencies for the purpose of increasing our support to PCSD students in foster care. PCSD students in foster care may have the opportunity to remain in their school of origin if it is in best interest of the student.

**Foster Care Transportation: ESSA Requirements, Title I, Part A**

ESSA is a federal legislation requiring child welfare agencies to collaborate with educational agencies to keep children in foster care in the same school when living placements change, if remaining in that school is in the best interest of the students. The legislation also requires that child welfare agencies ensure that children in foster care who do change schools are promptly enrolled in a new school, with relevant school records. Foster care is defined as 24- hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes. This federal law ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for foster children. The act ensures that foster children and youth have transportation to and from their school of origin if it is in the child’s or youth’s best interest and feasible. The district has designated Trina Williams as our Foster Care Point of contact to ensure that foster care children are identified and served.

The LEA Foster Care Point of Contact will determine each child’s best interest on a case by case basis, while making every effort to ensure that transportation is provided through the end of the school year. If you have questions regarding these services, please contact Trina Williams

@ twilliams@paulding.k12.ga.us or call her at 770 443-8000 (Ext. 10128).