

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Bureau of Indian Education  
1849 C Street NW, MIB-3610  
Washington, DC 20240

## Foster Care Program Transportation Dispute Resolution Process

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Transportation disputes between LEAs/schools and state, local, or tribal CWAs regarding paying for additional costs of transportation to the LEA/school of origin for children in foster care will be resolved by a three-person panel including the BIE point of contact (or designee), the state, local, or tribal CWA point of contact (or designee), and the BIE Office of the Solicitor (or designee). An LEA/school or a state, local, or tribal CWA can bring a transportation payment dispute to the BIE by submitting a dispute resolution request to the BIE point of contact via email with the subject "Foster Child Transportation Dispute." The dispute resolution request must include the following information:

- Explanation of the basis of the dispute and all pertinent facts
- Name and contact information (phone, email, and mailing address) of the people addressing the dispute thus far on behalf of the LEA/school and the state, local, or tribal CWA
- Details of how the agencies have attempted to resolve the dispute at the local level prior to appealing to the BIE
- Copy of the LEA/school's Written Transportation Procedures

Within ten (10) days of receipt of the dispute resolution request, the BIE point of contact will contact the party that did not submit the request (either the LEA or CWA), identifying the subject matter of the dispute and inviting that party to submit any information pertinent to the dispute. The party will have ten (10) calendar workdays to submit its explanation of the dispute, with all pertinent facts. Documents submitted by either party after the applicable deadlines will not be considered.

The panel shall make a final decision within fifteen (15) calendar workdays of receiving all information related to the dispute. The BIE point of contact will forward the written decision and an explanation of that decision to the appropriate parties at both the LEA/school and state, local, or tribal CWA. The decision shall be the final resolution.