

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ADAMS COUNTY AND BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J REGARDING THE
PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN/YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

WHEREAS, intergovernmental agreements to provide functions or services, including the sharing of costs of such functions or services by political subdivisions of the State of Colorado, are specifically authorized by Section 29-1-203 C.R.S. and Article XIV, Section 18 of the Colorado Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring school stability and academic success for children and youth in foster care is an important joint responsibility of child welfare and education agencies; and,

WHEREAS, Colorado's students in foster care experience much higher rates of school mobility and much lower rates of academic achievement than their peers, and less than one out of three Colorado students in foster care graduates high school within four years of entering ninth grade; and,

WHEREAS, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) require child welfare agencies and education agencies to collaborate to ensure school stability and school attendance for all children and youth in foster care; and,

WHEREAS, the Fostering Connections Act and ESSA require that when a child or youth in foster care changes foster care placements, he or she remains in the school of origin with necessary transportation provided, or, if this is not in his or her best interest, that the child or youth is immediately and appropriately enrolled in a new school even without normally required records; and,

WHEREAS, ESSA requires each local educational agency (LEA) to collaborate with the local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children and youth in foster care in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care; and,

WHEREAS, ESSA requires each local educational agency to designate a point of contact if the corresponding child welfare agency notifies it in writing that it has designated a point of contact, and in Colorado, educational agency points of contact, known as Child Welfare Education Liaisons (CWEL), are required in each local educational agency; and,

WHEREAS, this Intergovernmental Agreement between Adams County and Bennett School District 29J (the "Parties") delineates the roles and responsibilities of the Parties regarding the welfare and education of children/youth in foster care and has already been executed by Bennett School District 29J.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Adams County, State of Colorado, that the Intergovernmental Agreement between Adams County and Bennett School District 29J regarding the placement of children/youth in foster care,

a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, be and hereby is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby authorized to execute said Intergovernmental Agreement on behalf of Adams County.