



## News release

March 10, 2022

### Everett Public Schools opens first Family Resource Center

*Center will assist referred families to connect with many resources and additional support*



“As Everett Public Schools launched their strategic initiatives there was an immediate call to action to strengthen student wellness, engagement and safety,” said Chris Fulford, director of categorical programs. “There had been a long-standing desire to create a ‘one-stop shop’ for families to gain access to resources when experiencing challenges related to school success along with other basic needs.”

Everett Public Schools has a wealth of internal supports and community partners, but there was a need for a streamlined

process to connect the family and student needs to the resources.

The brainchild of McKinney-Vento Coordinator Amy Perusse, “the Family Resource Center (FRC) will provide a welcoming space for our students and families where they will receive support, have some basic needs met and connect to school and community resources. This first center is in the north end of Everett, serving students and families district-wide, and we have hopes to open a second center in the south end of the district in the fall.”

Through a staff referral at the student’s school, the FRC staff will serve as a systems navigator connecting with partnering agencies, school district departments, students and families as needed to ensure students have the best possible chance at academic success and social and emotional well-being.

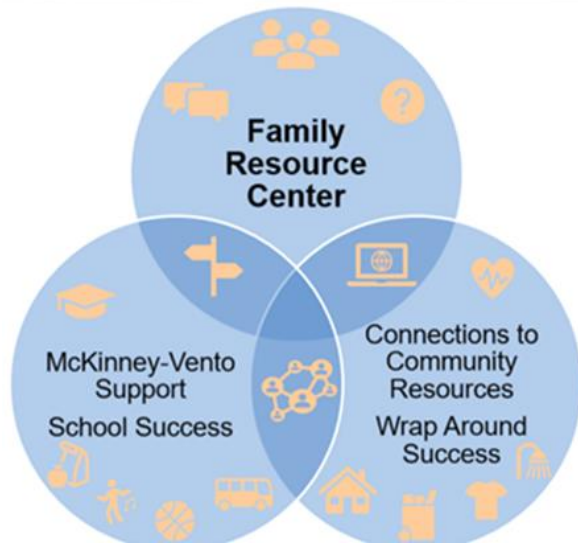
“Complicated systems and application processes can be daunting in the most ideal circumstances and are even more difficult when dealing with something like a housing crisis,” continued Perusse. “In our district, we typically identify and support around 1,200 students each school year who are living in eligible situations that meet the [McKinney-Vento Act](#) or what we refer to as [Kids in Transition \(KIT\)](#). Many of these situations can be addressed directly through supports on campus at the student’s school, but sometimes there is a greater level of coordination needed.”

After a referral is made, trained and experienced support staff help assess family strengths and challenges with a team-based approach, using trauma-informed best practices, to offer individualized plans for achieving success. Parents, caregivers and unaccompanied youth are guided to remove barriers to access internal school support systems and processes. Wrap-around services are then efficiently streamlined including access to basic needs like food,

hygiene, transportation, and referrals to housing and shelter options, as well as other services like healthcare, mental health, employment and education, or legal services.

“Opening officially on March 14th for our first referrals, we envision our Family Resource Center

as an easily accessible location for parents and caregivers to make connections with a knowledgeable guide to help connect families to support and services within Everett Public Schools and our local community,” added Perusse.



“This is a great opportunity for the entire Everett community to join forces to support our students and families,” concluded Fulford.

If you would like to financially support the Family Resource Centers, please click the [secure donation link](#) and select Everett School District Office and Family Resource Center option.

If you or someone you know are in need of services, please contact your student’s [support staff](#) at their school to see if the FRC services are a good fit for your situation.

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**For more information:**

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