

EPS Kids in Transition

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Coordinator



Some highlights...





McKinney-Vento Homeless

- Shelter
- Doubled-up
- Motel/Hotel
- Unsheltered

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

- M-V without a parent/guardian

Foster

- Substitute care away from home/parent
- Child welfare agency has placement, care, & authority



McKinney-Vento Eligibility

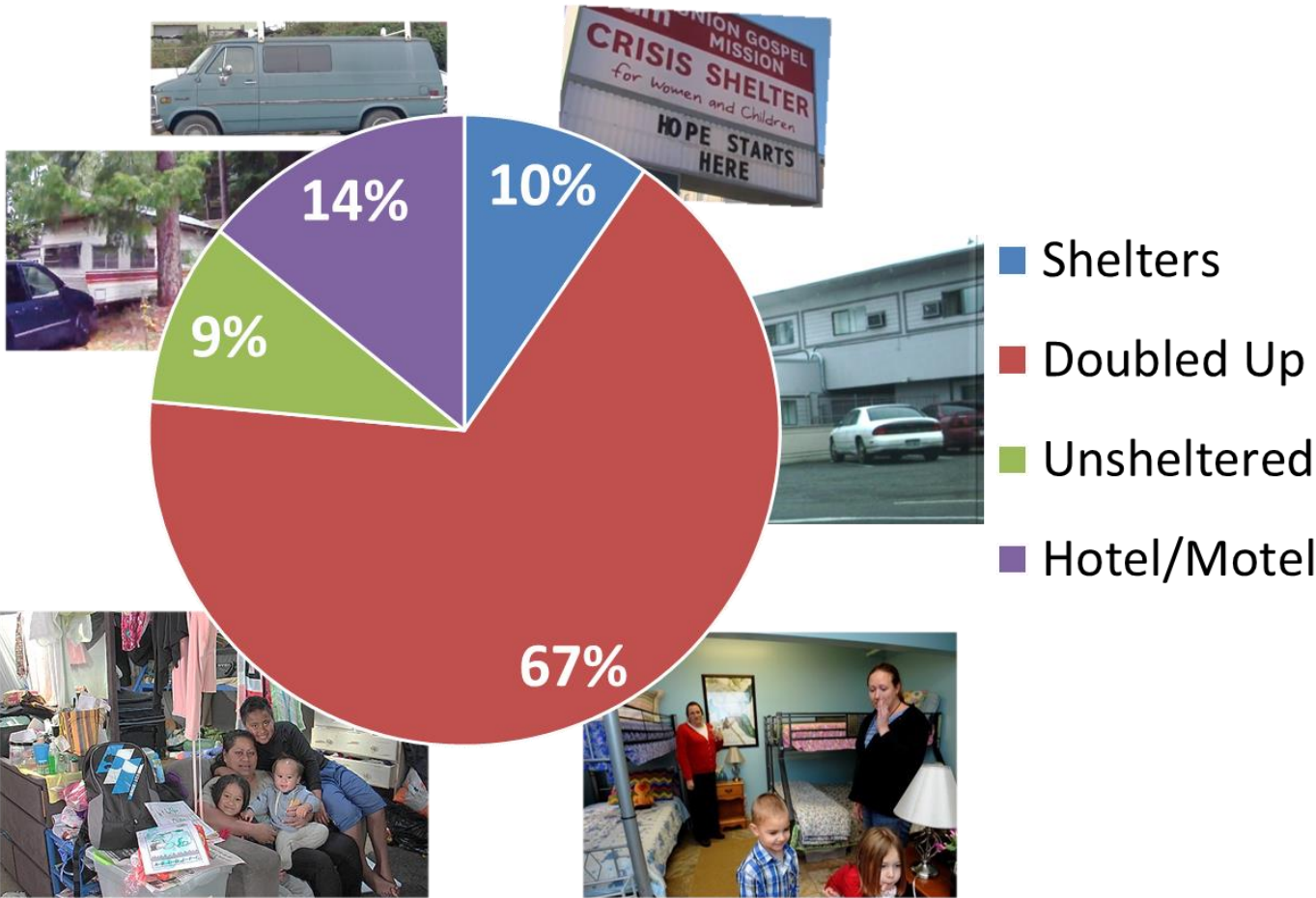


A more inclusive definition of “homeless”

Children & Youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

“Doubled-up” means sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.

“Adequate” means the space where the child is sleeping meets the physical and psychological safety needs of the child.





Potential signs of homelessness might include:

- Hearing children or parents talking about having to leave where they are staying, or staying with other people;
- Being in public places during the school day,
- Poor hygiene
- Unmet medical/dental needs (not having Personal Protective Equipment (PPE))
- Wearing the same clothes repeatedly
- Fatigue
- Social and behavioral challenges may include extreme shyness, withdrawal, or aggression; clinginess; difficulty with peer and/or adult relationships; poor attention span; and anxiety late in the school day.



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

HOMELESS

SITUATIONS BELOW PERTAIN TO UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH, I.E.,
YOUTH NOT IN THE *PHYSICAL* CUSTODY OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Family lost housing; unable to stay together in same place; placed child temporarily with someone else

Child or youth lives apart from parent/guardian due to domestic violence or family conflict; housing is not fixed, regular, adequate

Parent abandoned child; did not make long-term child care arrangements

Parent has a work conflict & made arrangements for child to stay with others

Incarcerated or hospitalized parent did not make arrangements for child's care

Incarcerated or hospitalized parent arranged for child to stay with caregiver

NOT HOMELESS



Let's Review...[Housing Questionnaire](#)

Helpful tips:

- **Please check for siblings!**
- **If the family marks doubled-up, please try to provide as much information about the situation so we can make the best determination of eligibility.**
- **Scanning/e-mailing is preferred, use the KIToffice@everettsd.org email.**
- **You do not need a parent signature (though it is preferred).**

McKinney-Vento & Foster Education Support



School Stability
Right to remain in the school of origin or to enroll in the resident area school.



Transportation
If temporary location is outside of the regular school service area and as long as it is feasible.

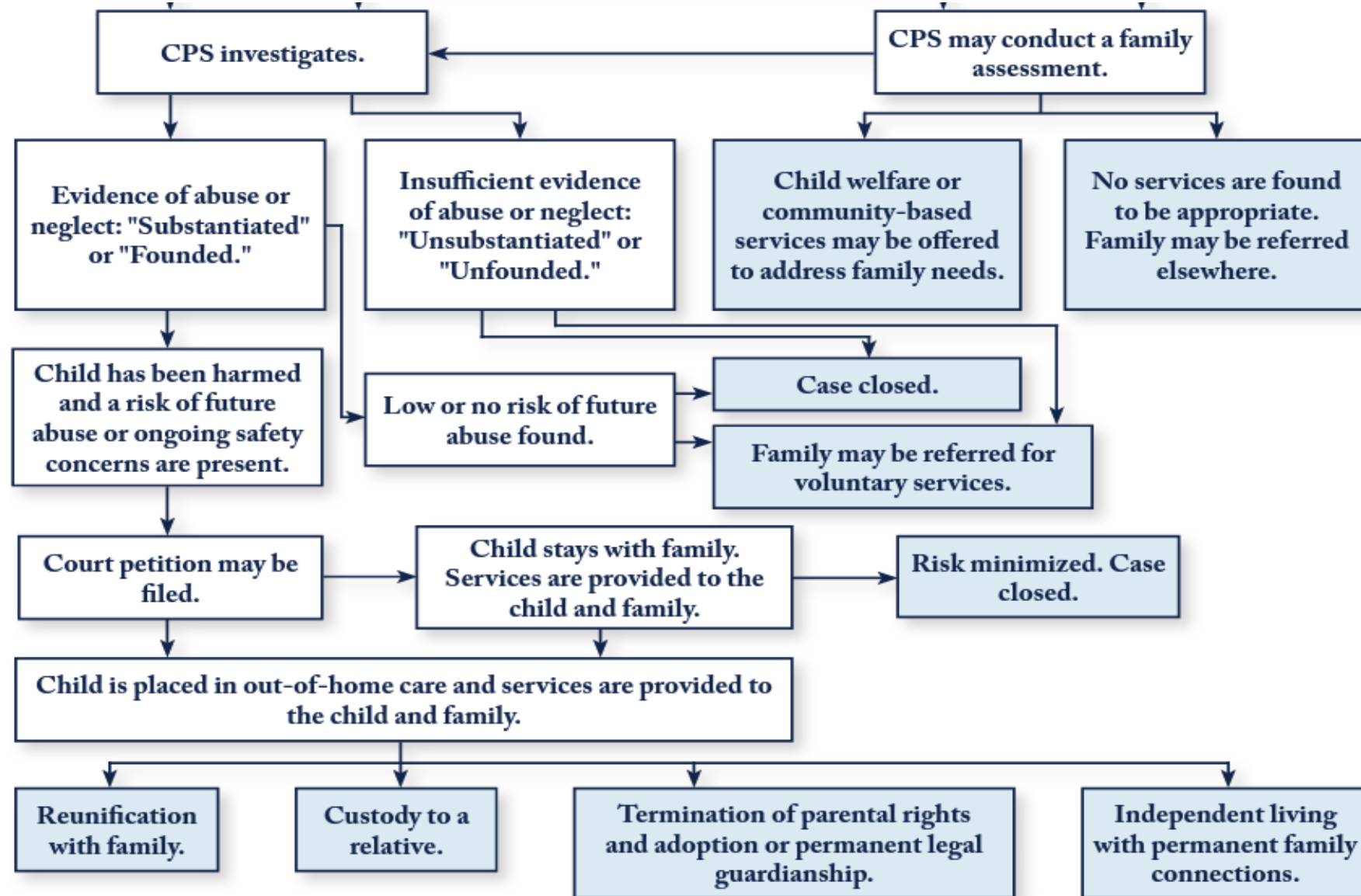


School Support
School supplies, fees, and fines. Referrals to other resources



School districts do not provide housing!
Might be able to refer families to community resources.





In 2021 the Washington State Legislature passed the *Keeping Families Together Act* in recognition that children and families are best served when children are cared for by their loved ones and in their communities.

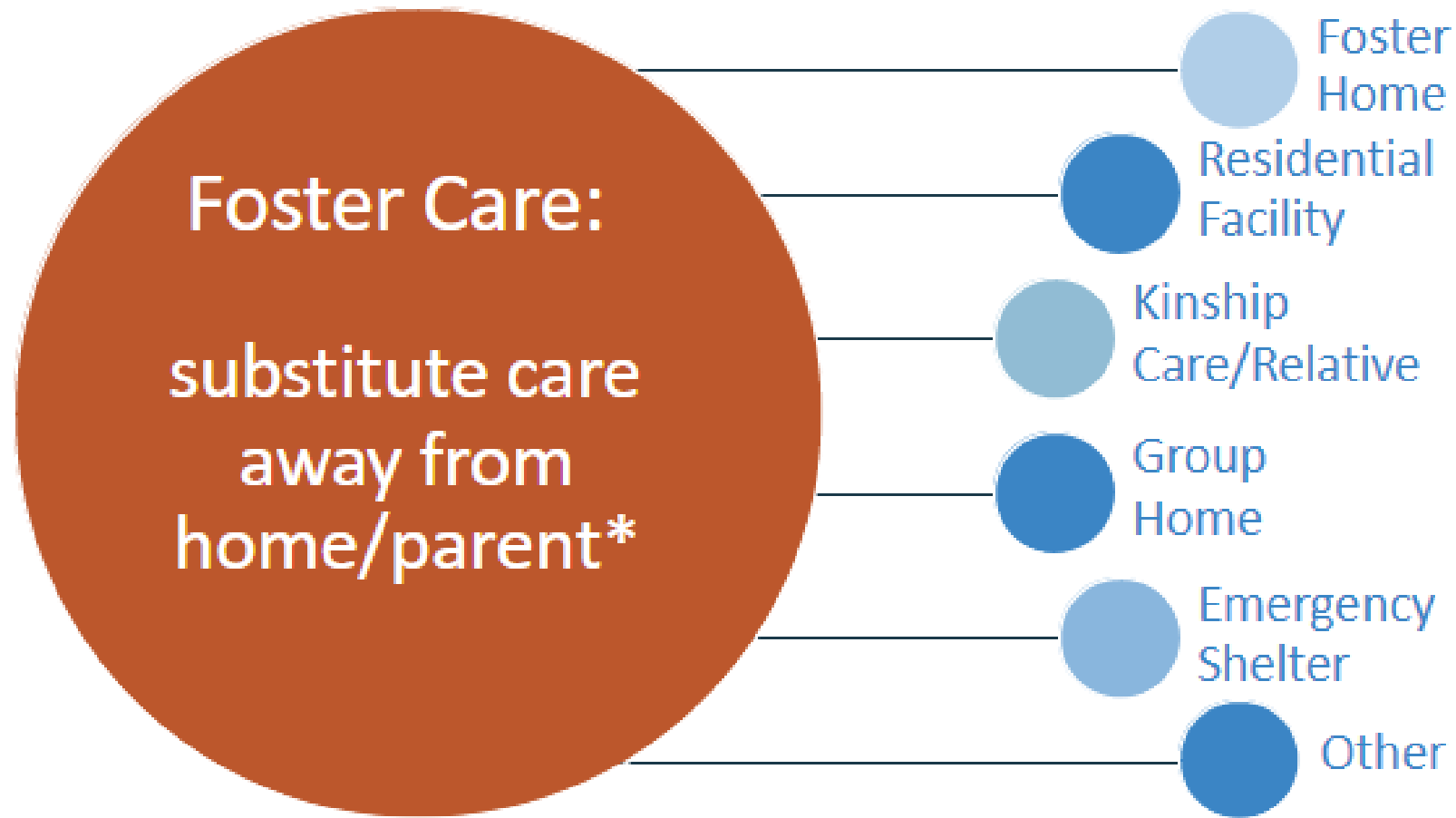
The *Keeping Families Together Act* became effective on July 1, 2023.



Changes to the Shelter Care proceedings (where dependency is/is not established)

- Should result in fewer removals from home
- Increased Kinship placements (vs. Foster homes)
- Reduction of racial disparities

Must show just cause of imminent physical harm to be removed. Not counting inadequate housing, poverty, prenatal drug exposure, mental illness/disability or non-conforming social behavior. Courts will consider what preventative services can be put in place to eliminate removal.



**Child Welfare Agency has PLACEMENT, CARE, & AUTHORITY
May also include: Tribal Foster Care & Federal Foster Care*

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Every school district is required to designate a Foster Care Liaison.

Students remain in school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in their best interest.

Students in foster care are entitled to immediate enrollment, even without documents normally required.

Schools/OSPI must collaborate with Child Welfare Agencies.

Foster Care Liaison Duties

Make sure every school has a Building Point of Contact and coordinate with them

Serve as the primary contact person for child welfare and case workers

Attend training and professional development opportunities to improve district implementation efforts

Facilitate the transfer of records and immediate enrollment

Facilitate data sharing with child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA

Develop and coordinate local transportation procedures

Manage best-interest determinations and transportation cost disputes

Ensure that children in foster care are enrolled in, and regularly attending school

Foster Care Facts

Youth in foster care suffer from PTSD at 2x the rate of war vets.

2x



Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Library of Medicine

1 in 6

foster care alumni will be homeless within a year of aging out



Source: Homelessness Among Youth Exiting Systems of Care in Washington State, DSHS

In Washington State,



nearly **15%** of youth in foster care will experience 3 or more placement changes



and lose up to 6 months of academic progress per move.

Source: Children's Bureau, George Fox University



Your role: Building Point Person

- Run your KIT report at least 1x/month and distribute to approved and trained staff.
- Check in with KIT students/families frequently
- Update KIT office with any address changes, transportation needs
- Make referrals as needed to the FRC (after utilizing school and community)
- Make sure that posters and pamphlets are in places where students and parents can see, connect with your office for getting information in newsletters or other publications.
- Connect with office staff to reinforce best practices.





Train your building staff to:

- Be attentive to the stigma of living in unstable housing, and avoid using the word “homeless”
- Talk with the family/student privately
- Be conversational so that families do not feel interrogated
- Request permission to ask questions
- Share your commitment to problem-solving and sharing resources with the family
- Avoid unnecessary questions that may cause embarrassment
- Explain the reasons for your questions
- Show respect by conveying that you see the parents as the experts on their family
- Apply active listening skills that demonstrate compassion and respect
- Refer to your KIT Building Point Person







Practice running your KIT report

Student Search

Simple Advanced

Search Criteria

















Advanced Search Criteria

| Actions | AND/OR | # | Area | Field Name | Condition | Value |
|---|--------|---|-------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|
|   | | 1 | Demographic | Current Status | = | Active |
|   | AND | 2 | EPS KIT | Category at Identification | is in | <div><div>× D - Hotels/Motels</div><div>× A - Shelters</div><div>× C - Unsheltered</div></div> |
|   | AND | 3 | | | | |

Criteria Grouping

1 AND 2

List Field Selection

| Actions | # | Area | Field Name |
|---|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
|   | 1 | Demographic | First Name |
|   | 2 | Demographic | Last Name |
|   | 3 | Demographic | Building |
|   | 4 | Demographic | Current Status |
|   | 5 | WA Student Information | Student in Foster Care |
|   | 6 | EPS KIT | Category at Identification |
|   | 7 | WA Student Information | Unaccompanied Youth |
|   | 8 | | |



Family Resource Center

Family Resource Center



**Strengthen student wellness,
engagement and safety**

Strategic Initiative: Strengthen student wellness, engagement, and safety.

Most situations are supported on campus at the student's school, but sometimes there is a greater level of coordination needed. That is when the Building Point Person might refer a family to the Family Resource Center (or FRC).

At the FRC appointment parents and caregivers meet a knowledgeable guide, helping connect to support and services within EPS and our local community.

The FRC is also used as a hub, receiving and storing limited donations to be dispersed by school support staff as needed.

Family Resource Center



Strengthen student wellness,
engagement and safety

Strategic Initiative: Strengthen student wellness, engagement, and safety.

Who to refer:

- Families who are already identified as KIT eligible and who need more help navigating resources than what you can help with.
- Families who are losing housing and may need connected to prevention services.

How to refer: KIT/Foster building point person will assess the needs of the family and determine if they can provide support for the family's needs. If the family situation is eligible for McKinney-Vento or at risk of losing housing **AND** exceeds the support the school can provide, the building point person will complete a [Family Resource Center Referral](#)



Practice Time!



Christine is 10 years old and in 5th grade. She stays with grandma and grandpa and sometimes her mom stays there too but Christine says they haven't seen her for a long time.

Christine's teacher is concerned with attendance and behaviors in class. Lately, Christine has been increasingly aggressive at school and cries a lot.

The grandparents shared they are also caring for a 4 year old and 8 month old sibling and are "strapped for cash" and do not receive any state support. They don't want CPS involved. They are scared that if they apply for benefits, mom will return and take the kids. They rent their home and missed a payment this last month. They don't know what to do.

A family living at the local shelter tells you they have only 2 weeks left and have nowhere to go. The youngest child is 4 and not in school. The older child is 12 and on an IEP. Mom has been trying to get a job but does not have childcare or a car.

Mom has also been working to get a parenting plan in place but says she can't afford legal costs right now.

Mom's goal is to stay in Everett as she attended the local schools there and wants her kids to remain there.





A mother of two students (one middle and one elementary) tells you that they lost their home as they fled an unsafe situation.

They are now living out of their car and have some stuff in a storage unit.

They are on waitlists for emergency shelter.

The kids are becoming smelly and mom does not have access to showers or laundry.

Poor behaviors escalate at school, and they are getting suspended.

When they can't go to school, they have nowhere to go, and temperatures are expected to drop below freezing this week.



Where to turn for more information

More information



Visit and direct families to the KIT website at www.everettsd.org/KIT

Pro tip:
You can log in as staff to unlock the goodies in the staff toolkit!

The screenshot shows the Everett Public Schools website. The top navigation bar includes links for HOME, OUR DISTRICT, ACADEMICS, DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAMS (highlighted), STUDENTS, PARENTS, COMMUNITY, and EMPLOYMENT. Below the navigation bar is the Everett Public Schools logo and a search bar. A row of icons represents various services: BUS ROUTES, ENROLLMENT, GRADES, MENUS, PAYMENTS, REPORT/ASSISTANCE, TECHNOLOGY, and CALENDAR. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home » Programs » Homeless - KIT Program » Overview.

HOMELESS - KIT PROGRAM

- Overview
- Community Resources
- COVID-19 Resources
- Teen Links
- Shelters & Housing Assistance
- Student Housing Form
- Dispute Resolution
- Family Resource Center (FRC)

Welcome to The Kids In Transition Program

The Everett Public Schools **Kids in Transition (KIT)** program implements the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act and the Foster Education Program.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 1987 provides support for homeless children and youth to continue their education without interruption or barriers. The definition for McKinney-Vento support is far more inclusive than what most people think when they think of "homeless." Please review this information to understand more.

If your family is homeless, or if you are in a temporary living situation due to economic circumstances, **your preschool-aged and school-aged children** have certain rights or protections under federal law.

KIT supports students who qualify as either living in a foster care; or those who meet the definition of homeless under federal McKinney-Vento legislation. McKinney-Vento eligibility is based on the student's nighttime residence and is far more inclusive than what many consider homeless. Students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may qualify. KIT works to eliminate barriers to students' enrollment, academic success, and extra-curricular participation. We ensure eligible students have school supplies and may coordinate academic support, tutoring, or facilitate student participation in extended day or summer school classes. We help students participate in activities such as sports or clubs by paying the required fees. KIT may coordinate transportation for eligible students to maintain school stability, as long as the commute is feasible. Last year, Everett Public Schools supported over 1,100 eligible students at some time during the school year. For more information, please contact [your building's KIT support staff](#) or the KIT office at 425-385-4022.

QUICKLINKS

- At Risk Of Eviction?
- Winter/Holiday Help
- Community Resources
- Foster Education Program
- National & State Homeless Education Organizations
- Parents: Know your rights (en espanol)
- Parents: Know your rights
- State McKinney-Vento information
- Students: Know your rights

More information



HOMELESS - KIT PROGRAM

Overview



Community Resources

COVID-19 Resources

Teen Links

Shelters & Housing
Assistance

Student Housing Form

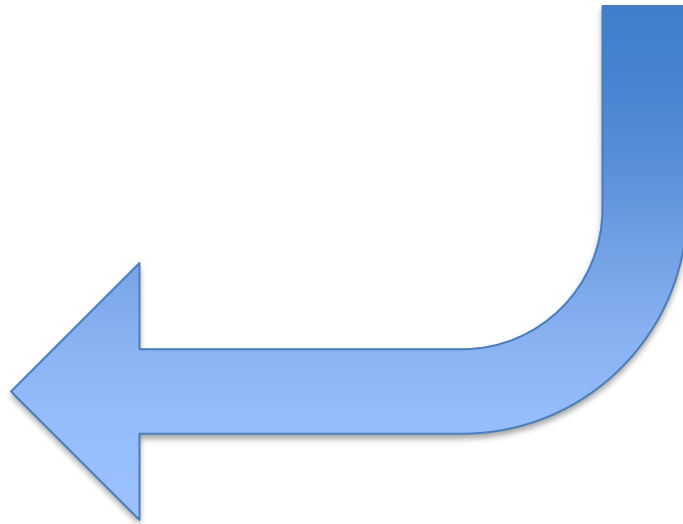
Dispute Resolution

KIT Staff Toolkit

Family Resource Center
(FRC)

KIT website: www.everettsd.org/KIT

*Log in as staff to unlock
the goodies in the staff toolkit!*





See [Office Staff Quick Guide](#) and [KIT FLOWCHARTS](#) for quick information when enrolling new students, identifying possible eligible situations and as a guide for frequently asked questions, like:

How can I create a welcoming environment for highly-mobile students and families? Can I enroll a student without proof of address?

Can I enroll a student without immunizations being up to date?

Which absences for KIT students can be excused?

What about transportation?

Need more guidance?

- Contact your [Building Point Person](#)
- Visit the KIT Website at www.everettsd.org/KIT *sign in as staff to access the staff toolkit.*
- *Contact the district KIT Office Staff 425-385-4032 or KIToffice@everettsd.org.*

More information



Check out the KIT Staff toolkit www.everettsd.org/KIT
login as staff and unlock the goodies in the staff toolkit!

OSPI resources and trainings:

[McKinney-Vento](#)

[Foster Care](#)

[Schoolhouse Connection](#) is a national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with early childhood programs, schools, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

EPS KIT Team



Building Point People are appointed for each building and are trained to assist with KIT situations on site. BPPs coordinate identification and supports through the KIT Team.

Chris Fulford- Director Categorical Programs x4030

KIT Office:

Amy Perusse, KIT Coordinator District Office x4235

Abby Mayers, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator District Office x4138

Diane Indivero, KIT Office Assistant x4086

Family Resource Center- by referral only

Lyn Lauzon, Family Resource Coordinator Llauzon@everettsd.org

Support Staff:

Mike Keiss EHS/SHS Success Coordinator

Final Thoughts or Questions?

