

FAQ's for Students with medical needs who are also eligible for KIT support

Q: Can KIT students enroll and attend school without documentation of medical needs or if they are non-compliant with immunizations?

A: Yes, they should be enrolled and attending without delay.

Q: How long can KIT students attend school if they are non-compliant with immunizations?

A: There is not a specific time limit on how long McKinney-Vento students can be in school while immunizations or other health records are obtained. The vast majority of students experiencing homelessness have been enrolled in school before and have had required immunizations. Those records should be a part of their school records. Since the enrolling school is required to contact the previous school for records, the information should be available quickly. The enrolling school and the KIT Building Point Person should work together to get immunization records as soon as possible.

If a student has not had immunizations, initial doses should be administered as soon as possible, unless the student has a philosophical, religious, or medical exemption.

Additional Tips: School Nurses/HRAs that have a student that is in this situation, should forward the information to their KIT Building Point Person (BPP), or School Counselor. The BPP or counselor should work with the parent (or Unaccompanied Homeless Youth) to identify barriers to obtaining the immunizations and help coordinate getting the immunizations. If the barrier is due to a cost to obtain the immunizations, the BPP or counselor can notify the KIT office and we can arrange for the costs to be covered.

Q: What do we do if a KIT student needs a new prescription or one on file for a medication at school?

A: Much like the immunizations issue, we cannot deny a KIT student access to school due to lack of current prescriptions or medication.

Additional Tips: School Nurses/HRAs that have a student that is in this situation, should forward the information to their KIT Building Point Person (BPP), or School Counselor. The BPP or counselor should work with the parent (or Unaccompanied Homeless Youth) to identify barriers to obtaining and help coordinate getting the prescription or medication. If the barrier is due to a cost to obtain the immunizations, the BPP or counselor can notify the KIT office and we can arrange for the costs to be covered.

Q: What do we do if a student needs an appointment with a healthcare provider but has no parent to authorize the care?

The law (copied below) says we must provide verification that the student meets the eligibility, that the staff is authorized to consent for care on behalf of the student, and that the staff is exempt from liability and payment.

The homeless student liaison, school nurse, or school counselor must provide written notice (see Verification of Status form) verifying the status of the minor patient as an unaccompanied homeless youth under McKinney-Vento regulations, declaring that the individual is authorized to consent to medical care on behalf of the minor patient, and of his/her exemption from liability for any care or payment for such care to the health care provider.

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The form is available in DocuShare at:

<http://docushare.everett.k12.wa.us/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2815/3115P%20Education%20for%20Homeless%20Students.pdf>

Additional Tips: If you have a student for whom you think this form would be appropriate, please start by contacting your BPP, or the KIT office (direct line x4235). We will first verify that the student in question is truly an unaccompanied homeless youth. That will help us ensure that the student meets the eligibility requirements so that the staff will maintain exemption from liability. We recognize that in some cases the counselor directly working with the student may wish to be the adult who accompanies the student to the medical appointment, but there may be other cases where it would be helpful to have district staff do this. We can also discuss options with you and help find a district staff person, if that is preferable.

Q: Do you have any resources for Glasses?



A: First try to find out if the student has Vision insurance, many students are eligible for AppleCare.

Most students who are on free/reduced meals are eligible for medical coverage through Apple Care (formerly known as Medicaid). If you need to connect a family with medical coverage, you can refer to the Family Health Hotline through WithinReach. Or the student/parent can see if they qualify at:

<https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/>.

Apple Care provides one eye exam per year and two pair of glasses per year. You can get the second pair ordered at least one month after they fill the prescription for the first pair (they are intended to be a backup in case the other pair is lost or broken).

If the student needs a new exam and prescription (and either don't have insurance or insurance has been used for the year)

[The Lion's Club](#) is a good resource for glasses. Another option is America's Best, where they offer low rates for services (2 pairs of glasses plus the exam for \$79.95 as well as lower-priced contacts) or Walmart Vision Center, where glasses and exams are also affordable. Parents may also find affordable options online at:

<https://www.zennioptical.com/>

<https://www.firmoo.com/>

After pursuing the above options, you may be able use Invest-Ed funds at your building to cover the costs, or if the student is in our KIT program, KIT may be able to assist with the cost.

Q: Do you have any resources for showers and laundry?

A: If you are able to make arrangements for a youth to use a shower, and maybe even small loads of laundry, at your school that may be a solution. Ask the BPP or school counselor if they can help determine if this is an option at your site.

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The locker room at the Everett Stadium, behind the school district office, is open to the public Monday through Friday 6:30am-1:30pm. Men's is always Locker Room B (there is a small sign above the doors stating which one is which). Women's during Aquasox season and 2 weeks after the season for cleaning is Locker Room A. The rest of the year Women's is Locker Room C. Follows ESD employee calendar (260 day employees) and rarely is closed for events, i.e. band festival and private school field day. There are open lockers for belongings, they would have to bring their own pad lock.

Youth 12-24 can be directed to U-Turn Outreach Center: located at 3530 Colby Ave, Everett 98201

Hours: Weekdays 2:00 - 6:30 pm and weekends 10:00 - 1:00 pm

Get Help 24/7: Call or text 425.877.5171 or email safeplace@cocoonhouse.org

Q: What do we do if a KIT student has headlice?

A: You should follow your regular health room procedures to initiate a lice check in the Health Room when the students arrive at school. My understanding is that your principal, or designee, can have students who are suspected of being exposed to head lice check in to the health room first thing in the morning and have the HRA comb them out, then send them on to class.

If lice or nits are discovered, the BPP or counselor can help the parent clean out the house, provide lice treatment, and can offer to pay for laundry tokens/cards. It is going to come down to the people in the school doing the work to help this family. We cannot, exclude KIT students from school due to having lice and best practices are that [no child should be excluded from school due to head lice](#). If all other resources have been exhausted, the KIT program could purchase a lice treatment kit. However, if the family is not living in a situation that allows them to consistently treat the home environment, the treatment kit is not going to resolve the problem. Once they are stably housed you would have better luck with treatment.

Q: What can we do if a KIT student needs a nurse to ride the bus with them on a long commute?

A: The KIT program should be told of the accommodation need at the time of requesting transportation from out of the service area. Transportation department will work with nurse to determine feasibility, if approved, they will arrange a schedule to provide the ride along service for the student. If there are additional hours outside of the nurse's regular schedule, a timesheet would be submitted to the KIT office for processing.

Q: Are there any resources for Sports Physicals or other Non-Emergency appointments?

You would probably want to find out if the student has Apple Care already. If they do there are places that should do the sports physical, or other appointment, at no cost. The student should call their PCP if they have one to see if they offer this service or they can go to another location that does this.

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Visit WithinReach at www.withinreach.org and then click the logo for parenthelp123.org or you can call their help line 1-800-322-2588 for guidance for this.

If you do not know if the student has Apple Health or if the student does not have their card they can contact the local Health Care Authority

HCA Area Representatives: https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/area_representatives.pdf

HCA Community-Based Specialists: http://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/community_based_staff_contact.pdf

If the student is an **unaccompanied homeless youth**, under age 18, they may need the [Informed Consent for Healthcare](#) (see pages 10-11) which can be signed by your school nurse or by our homeless liaison, in our KIT office.

For more information on strategies for Nurses and Health Room Assistants working with KIT students, please review the [OSPI McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth School Staff Resource](#) Pages 17-18 are specific to your roles.