



# KIT BPP Spring Training 2023-2024 School Year

Thanks for being part of the EPS KIT Team!





# Today's goals



**McKinney-Vento and  
Foster Education Support**

Amy Perusse

EPS KIT Coordinator

McKinney-Vento Liaison

Abby Mayers

Foster Liaison/Family and Community  
Engagement Coordinator

Lyn Lauzon

Family Resource Center Coordinator

Diane Indivero

KIT Admin Assistant

## Overview of Who, Why, and How we support

- Review of the year for KIT -Share data
- Removing, Continuing, Transitions and Checking in
- Graduating Seniors

## Updates & Announcements

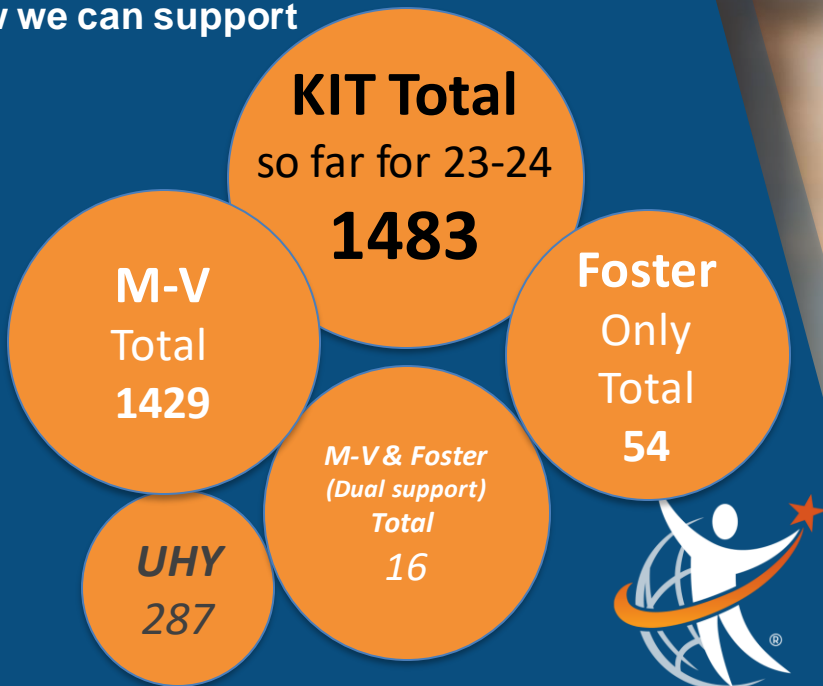
- Family Resource Centers- Impacts and updates
- Collaboration & partnership updates

## Where to find more information

- KIT Staff toolkit
- Other great resources, training, and PD opportunities

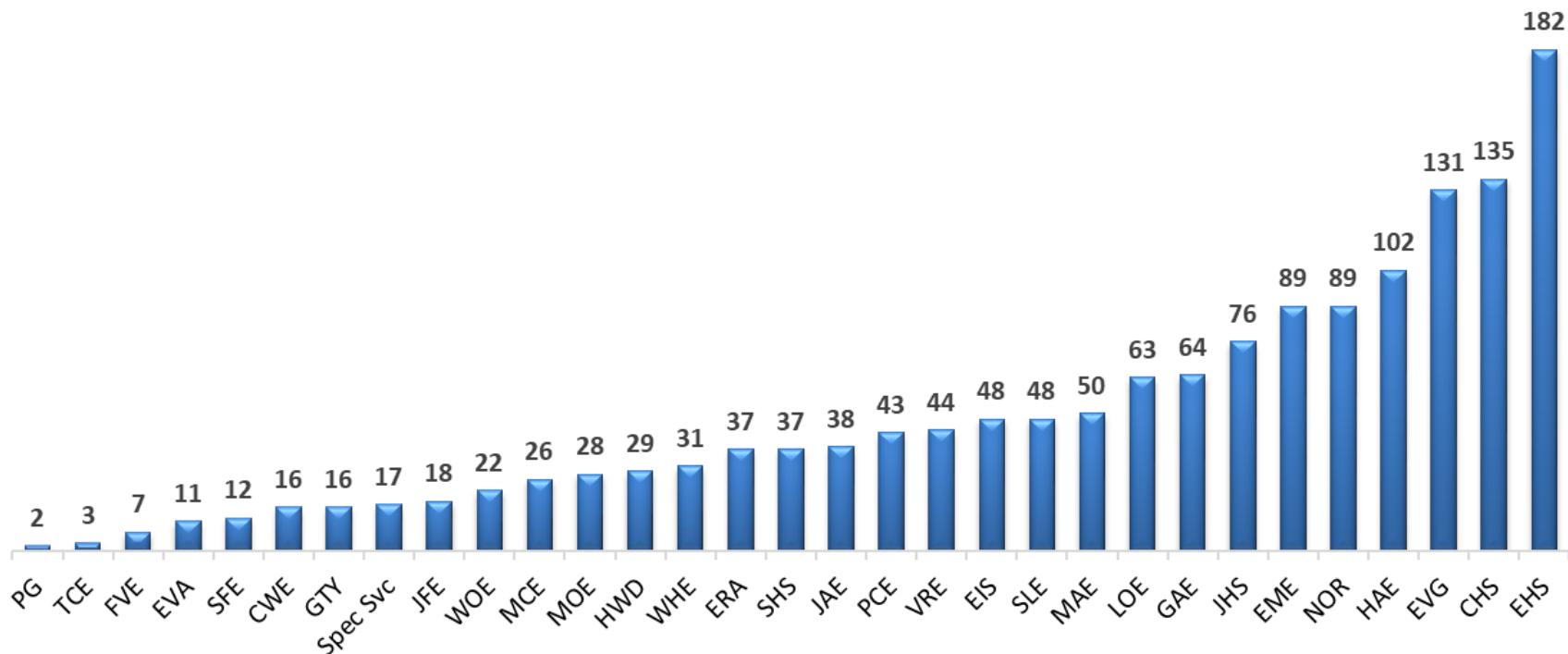
# KIT Overview

- Eligibility
- Why this support is important
- How we can support





## KIT By Building 22-23 school year as of 4.19.23 (n=1514)





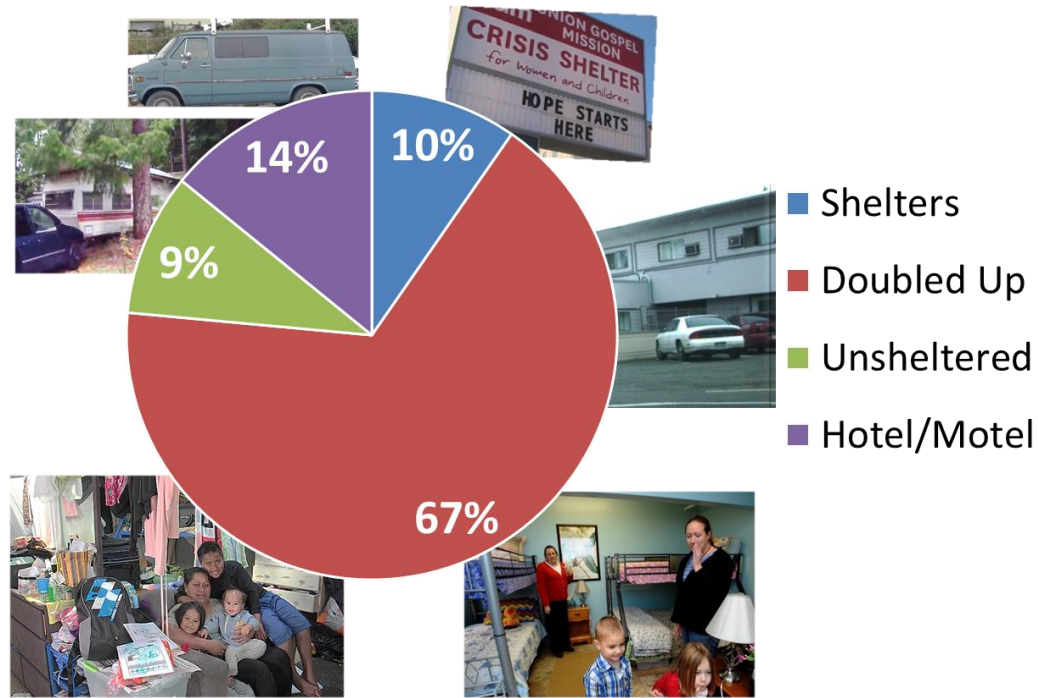


## A more inclusive definition of “homeless”

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.*



Eligible situations as coded at the time of identification, most are moving around so could be different from night to night.

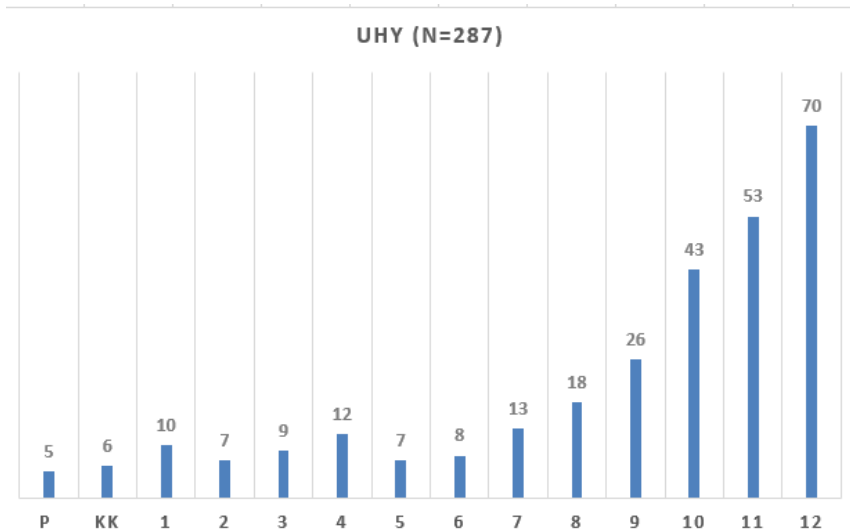
# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)



*“A child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence  
and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.”*

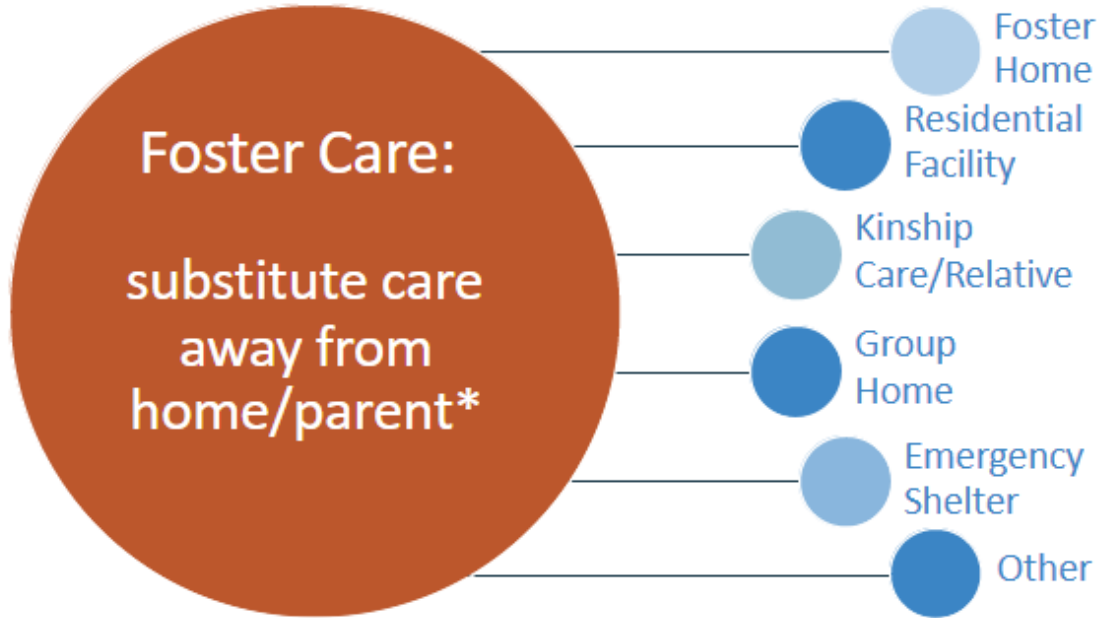
## Can be any age...

Many due to unexpected parental death, incarceration, or conflicts in the home.



Youth may runaway due to abuse or neglect.

Parents force youth out of the home due to conflicts many times related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy.



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



RCW 28A.320.148 - Foster care liaison and building points of contact.

Each school district must designate a foster care liaison to:

- Facilitate district compliance with state and federal laws related to students in out-of-home care.
- Collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to address educational barriers.
- In consultation with building principals, designate a foster care building point of contact in every school.





# Foster Care vs. McKinney-Vento



Foster Care	McKinney-Vento
<b>District Liaison and Building Point of Contact</b>	
Each school district must designate a <a href="#">District Liaison</a> and a <a href="#">Building Point of Contact</a> in each school.	Each school district must designate a liaison and a point of contact in each school.
<b>School of Origin Rights</b>	
School of origin is the school the student was enrolled in when first placed into foster care. If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change.	Students experiencing homelessness are entitled to remain in their school of origin or enroll in the neighborhood school where they are currently residing. School of origin is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
<b>Transportation</b>	
Districts must provide transportation to/from school of origin, even if outside of school/district boundaries.	Districts must provide transportation to/from school of origin, even if outside of school/district boundaries.
<b>Immediate Enrollment</b>	
Students in foster care must be <a href="#">enrolled immediately</a> , even when documents normally required are not available (e.g., immunization records, health plan, updated IEP, etc.).	Students experiencing homelessness must be enrolled immediately, even when documents normally required are not available (e.g., immunization records, health plan, transcripts, updated IEP, etc.).
<b>Best Interest Determinations</b>	
<a href="#">Best Interest Determinations</a> must be held prior to changing the school placement of a student in foster care.	A district must educate a homeless child or youth in their school of origin, unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian.
<b>Free Meals</b>	
All students in foster care qualify for free breakfast/lunch.	All students experiencing homelessness qualify for free breakfast/lunch.
<b>Title I Services</b>	
Students in foster care are categorically eligible for Title I funding. Districts also can develop an (optional) Title I foster care set aside.	Students experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for Title I funding and districts must develop a Title I set aside to support identification and services.

Dispute Resolutions Process and On-Time Grade Level Progression and Graduation	
<a href="#">Dispute Resolution Process</a> and <a href="#">On-time grade level progression and graduation</a>	Dispute Resolution Process and <a href="#">On-time grade level progression and graduation</a>
Fees and Fines	
DCYF is responsible for fees/fines.	Districts must waive all fines and fees for students experiencing homelessness. Fines and fees that cannot be waived must be paid for either through Title I if allowable as a last resort or other available resources.
Attendance	
<a href="#">Monitor Attendance</a> School districts must review unexpected or excessive absences and proactively support students in foster care.	Districts are required to remove barriers to full participation in school. Absences due to homelessness must be excused.

New! Tons of information, training and resources

[OSPI Foster Care Resources and Toolkit](#)

# Kids in Transition

## Attendance and Truancy



Absences caused by homelessness must not be counted against students, as this would create a barrier to enrollment and retention in school.

**Table 7: Homeless Attendance and Truancy by Student Group, SY 2021-22**

Student Group	Number of Students Regularly Attending*	Percent of Students Regularly Attending	Number of Students Reported as Truant**	Percent of Students Reported as Truant
Statewide (All Students)	866,726	80.1%	101,437	8.9%
Students Experiencing Homelessness (All)	15,643	51.9%	9,765	26.0%
<b>Gender</b>				
Female	7,892	53.1%	4,883	26.0%
Male	7,582	50.4%	4,788	26.0%
Gender X	169	75.8%	94	25.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
American Indian/Alaska Native	389	42.5%	343	36%
Asian	487	76.8%	145	18%
Black/African American	1358	48.1%	1,056	32%
Hispanic/Latino	5,478	51.9%	3,350	25%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	333	38.2%	461	33%
Two or More Races	1,582	45.4%	1,356	32%





### McKinney-Vento

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

### Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

Meet the McKinney-Vento definition and are not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian.

### Foster Care

Substitute care away from home/parent and Child Welfare Agency has Placement, care, & authority



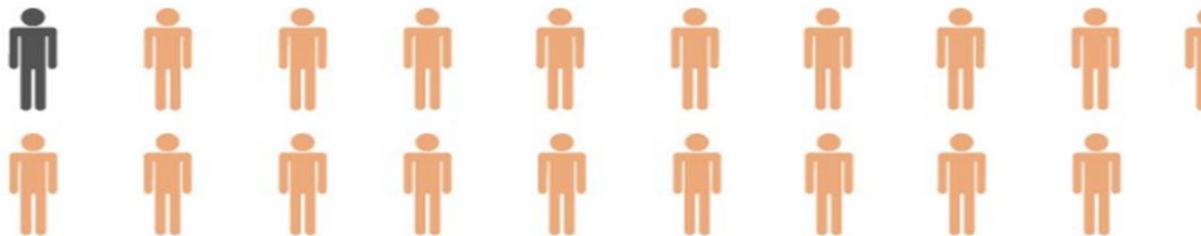
## Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Analysis



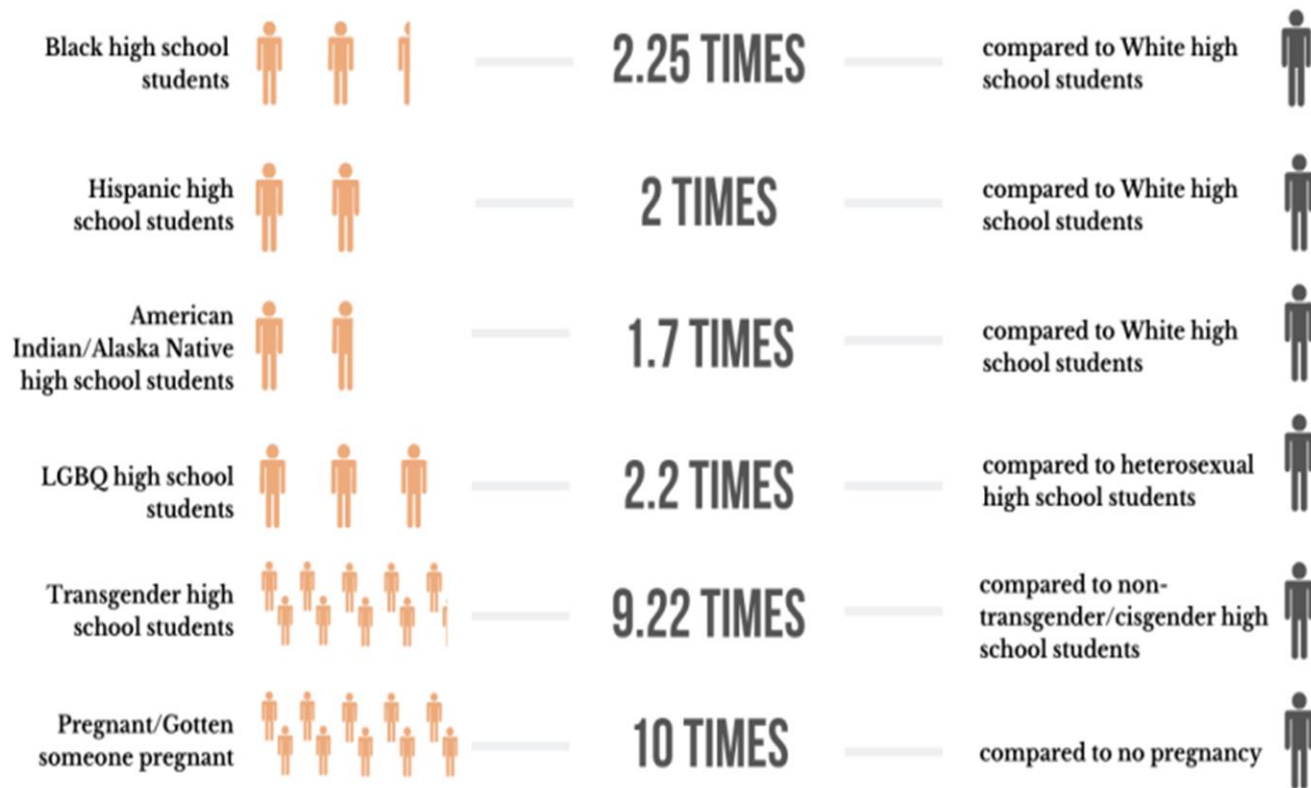
Survey results show:

**5.4% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INDICATED THEY HAD EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS IN THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

For every 18.5 high school students, 1 has experienced homelessness.



Data: SchoolHouse Connection's analysis of 2019 YRBS data from 27 states (AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, ID, IL, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MT, NH, NM, NC, ND, PA, RI, SC, SD, VT, VA, WI)





# Kids in Transition

## Why Educational Support?




### Homelessness causes:

- Chronic health problems
- Trauma
- Mobility



### Leading to:

- High rates of chronic absenteeism
- Double the rates of punitive discipline
- Lower graduation rates



And the **lack of a high school degree** is the  
Greatest single risk factor for young adult homelessness.

**Goal:** Ensure identification, enrollment, and success in school.

## High mobility experienced by KIT students creates educational barriers



- Educational disruption due to changing schools often multiple times
- High rates of absenteeism and dropping out
- Undiagnosed learning or special education needs
- Inability to focus on studies due to:
  - The trauma of losing their home, belongings, routines
  - Lacking basic needs: food, clothing, health care
- Feeling embarrassment and shame



# McKinney-Vento & Foster Education Support



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



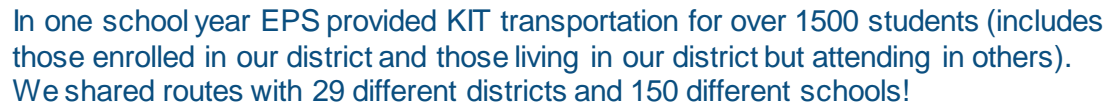
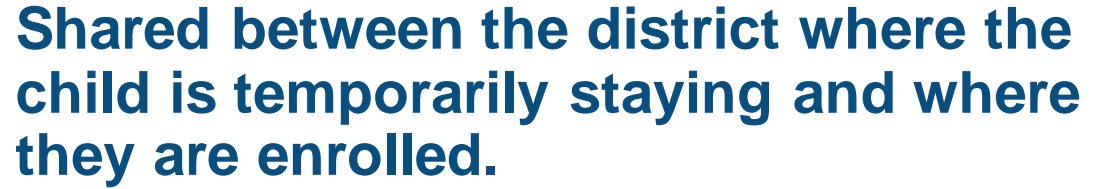
**Transportation**  
If temporary location is outside of the regular school service area and as long as it is feasible.



**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.





## Things to know about when requesting transportation:



- The magic doesn't happen overnight! Allow up to one week when requesting!
- When there is another district involved, Everett arranges the “from” school; the other districts handle the “to” school. The information from the other school is not available for any staff to see in power schools.
- When submitting a request, it helps to know if there are any special accommodations or siblings, even at other schools!
- Send all requests to the KIT office, not to transportation, (see KIT staff toolkit for more guidance)



## How can you help KIT students and families?

- Know who your KIT students are.
- Check in regularly with them to build a relationship and trust.
- Help families learn to communicate with the schools. Is their information correct in eschools? Do they have needs we can help with?
- Explain transportation processes and eligibility.
- Help explain the boundary maps for schools and districts.
- Guide the enrollment processes and have a conversation with parents around the child's best interest of school placement, or to explain the process for applying for a school transfer (aka variance).
- Explore Early Learning options if you find there are younger siblings.





- Help determine options for childcare or other activities before and after school that fit with the school location.
- Explain the importance of attendance and the rules around truancy laws.
- Assist with planning routines as families become more stable.
- Bedtime and morning routines encourage students' readiness to learn.
- Create a transition plan with the family in anticipation of ending KIT eligibility.
- Identify and communicate with the appropriate staff in your building to assist with supporting the student.
- Invite Social Workers to IEP meetings, attendance meetings, events.



- Once a student is stably housed (or no longer in foster care), they are eligible for support through the end of that school year and includes summer school if needed.
- Students may enroll in their resident area school at any time. We encourage transferring at a “natural transition time” like over spring, winter, or summer break.
- At registration in the new school, a parent should alert the new school if they are now stable but would like to finish the school year with support (this can be noted on the student housing form).





Is there a time limit on how long a youth can be considered homeless? No

Are families who move in with relatives or friends covered? Yes, if they share the housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason. If sharing due to cultural preferences or convenience, may not qualify depending on space, etc.

What is a district's responsibility for advising families about their rights if they do not consider themselves as homeless? Schools must ensure families are aware of the act and what it provides. Schools must disseminate public notice. Once a school has sensitively and discreetly explained the right, families may then choose not to take advantage of McKinney-Vento services at their discretion

How "immediate" is immediate enrollment? "Without delay", which generally means the same or following day



## **Any changes to contacts or housing?**

Report to the KIT office using a student housing questionnaire

## **Plans for Summer school?**

Notify the KIT office if they will need transportation

## **Best interest plan for school for the fall?**

Review the school decision making guide with staff, parents, caregivers, student

**If Foster**, check in with Abby to make sure there is a good plan for fall if unsure

### **REMINDER**

When contacting the KIT office, please either use the KIT office email ([kitoffice@everettsd.org](mailto:kitoffice@everettsd.org)) or email Amy and Diane. Please do not do both!



**Prompts:** We noticed your address changed. Is this stable now? Signed lease?

**Questions:** Have you thought about next school year and where you will be? Do you need help with registration?

**Reflections:** I know that Joe has been here for 2 years now. How do you think he will feel changing schools? What can we do to ease this transition?

**Acknowledge:** Wow, you found a stable place. I'm sure that will bring some peace of mind to you. Let's think about next steps together.

**The hard truth:** I understand that leaving this school is not what you want. Unfortunately, you are in a new district and no longer qualify for KIT support. What can we do to help with this change?



## 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)



### Welcome to the KIT Staff Toolkit

Check here to find the latest information for coordinating support for students who are eligible for support through the Everett Public Schools KIT (Kids in Transition) Program. Please be sure to review the Role of the KIT BPP and get to [know who your building's KIT representative is](#). They are a wealth of information!

**Student Housing Questionnaires:** Completed at registration, distributed to all families annually for updates, or completed at any time a situation needs to be screened as potentially eligible. Please complete the form and then scan it and email to Amy Perusse: [aperusse@everettsd.org](mailto:aperusse@everettsd.org) and Diane Indivero: [dindivero@everettsd.org](mailto:dindivero@everettsd.org).

Please print and scan as an attachment: [Arabic](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Vietnamese](#)

- 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? Are absences for KIT students always excused? What about transportation?

- [NEW! Summer School FAQs](#)
- [Family Resource Center Referral](#) \*BPP's can use the FRC Referral for requesting basic needs items from the FRC or to schedule an appointment for a student or family in need of more coordination of services and support than can be covered at the building level. Students/families referred must either be already identified as KIT or at risk of losing their housing, **and** have other facets of coordination needed.
  - **NEW!** This FRC Referral can also be used to request "Granted Wishes" - this can include **rent** to prevent a family becoming homeless (up to \$500), move in assistance, temporary hotel stays, and other items not covered by the KIT program or any other scholarship. Wishes are granted by a partnering agency, WA Kids in Transition, when funds are available.

Go to the [KIT staff toolkit](#) (log in as staff to access this)

## Family Resource Center Referral

BPP's can use for requesting basic needs items from the FRC or to schedule an appointment for a student or family in need of more coordination of services and support than can be covered at the building level.

Students/families referred must either be already identified as KIT or at imminent risk of losing their housing **and** have other facets of coordination needed after you have exhausted all other resources.



The FRC Referral can also be used by BPP's to request "Granted Wishes". The FRC will determine the best way to meet the need. Funds could come from the KIT office, if eligible, FRC funds, WA Kids in Transition or other resources.

Some examples of a requested Granted Wish (maximum of \$500):

- Rental assistance to prevent homelessness-often pooled with other sources
- Move-in costs to get out of homelessness
- Other items: such as utility assistance, undergarments, haircuts, athletic equipment, car repair, sleeping bags, or air mattresses.
- Short term temporary hotel stays (limited circumstances)

*(Please note the old Granted Wishes Request form is no longer active.)*



- **Madrona Square subsidized apartments are FULL.**

- New openings will be few and far between
- There is NOT a waitlist for future openings.

- **FRC South is now open at Silver Lake Elementary School.**

- In the process of filling the shelves with basic needs items
- Coverage is limited

This year, the FRC has:

- Served 119 families and 263 children
- Met w/families 224 times in person or by phone to meet a specific need(s)
- Provided over 1,000 pounds of food to families and schools
- Made 94 housing connections for families
- Provided \$5,400 in GC's for gas, food, etc.
- Distributed Thanksgiving baskets/GC's through district social workers
- Organized distribution of 140 hoodies and UHY backpacks (with KIT office/CT) to the high schools

## Staff in Transition Review of KIT Team



### **KIT Office:**

Amy Perusse, KIT Coordinator x4235

Abby Mayers, Foster/Family and Community Engagement Coordinator x4138

Diane Indivero, KIT Office Assistant x4086

### **Family Resource Center- by referral only**

Lyn Lauzon, Family Resource Coordinator x4654

### **Support Staff:**

Mike Keiss, On-Time Graduation Success Coordinator x4535 (M,T,F); x5148 (W,Th)

Chris Fulford, Director Categorical Programs x4030



**Request individualized assistance from the KIT team**

**Check out the KIT Staff toolkit [www.everettsd.org/KIT](http://www.everettsd.org/KIT)  
login as staff and unlock the goodies in the staff toolkit!**

**OSPI Has a ton of 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.



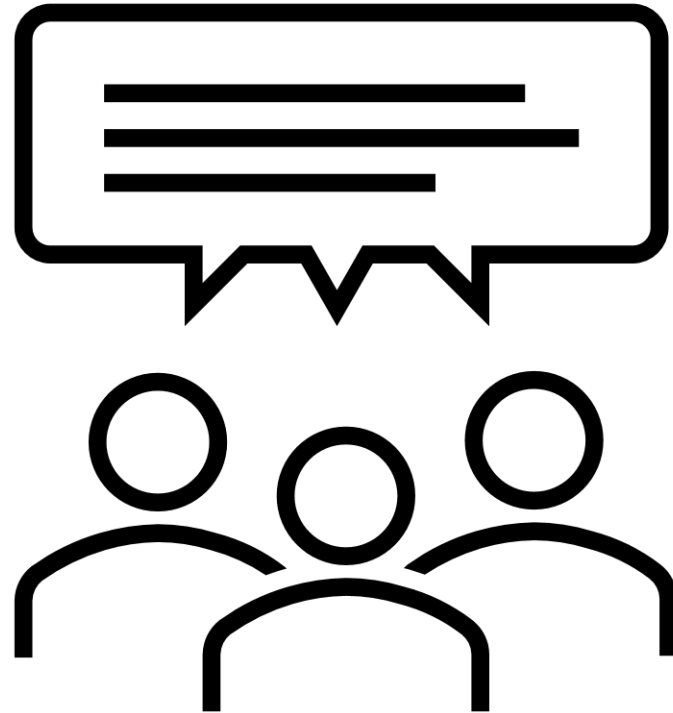
**Housing Form: make sure you are using the most recent version!**

**As much info as you know/can share helps us make the best determination of qualification.**

**Where to find the most recent housing forms: Kit Staff Toolkit**

<https://docushare.everett.k12.wa.us/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-92066/HousingQuestionnaireENGLISH.pdf>







# THANK YOU!

For being part of our KIT Team

*Complete the evaluation in frontline to  
receive credit for this training*

