

ESSA FOSTER CARE AND MILITARY CONNECTED 101

A Mini Training for School
Based Staff

2019-2020

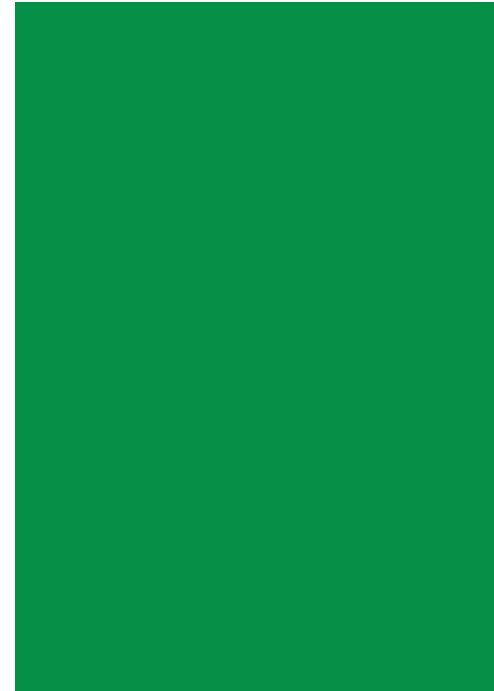


Discover a World of Opportunity™



WHO ARE WE?

- We are a resource for DPS foster care, kinship and military connected families. New ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) authorizations for foster care and military connected students went into effect in 2017.
- We are ensuring DPS is in compliance with these federal guidelines but we have also worked to increase services that include resources and direct support.
- For the 2019-2020 school year, we have three staff: a program manager and two program liaisons
- We are a part of the Federal Programs Department and housed at the Acoma Campus.



WHO CAN WE IDENTIFY?

- Our program can identify any DPS foster or kinship student that has a formalized out of home placement – *this requires child welfare involvement*
- Our program can identify any DPS student that has an active duty military parent or guardian



REQUEST FORM LINK

<https://forms.gle/vjEimgPTjDgpvzAG6>



Resource request form for foster/kinship and military-connected students

The foster/kinship and military-connected program through Denver Public Schools Federal Programs connects resources to students, caregivers and community. We are invested in removing barriers for success in school by providing supplemental resources and emergency needs such as clothing, hygiene, outerwear, school meal/fee assistance, and school supplies. We work with parents, guardians, foster care and kinship providers as well as district staff.

Support from our program is limited to students with formalized foster, kinship or active duty military status. Our program began as a response to the new ESSA requirements for foster and military-connected students and expanded to provide basic and school items for these students in need. We do have a limited inventory of items on hand but can connect families to outside resources as needed.

For more information please visit: <https://childservices.dpsk12.org>

* Required

Email address *

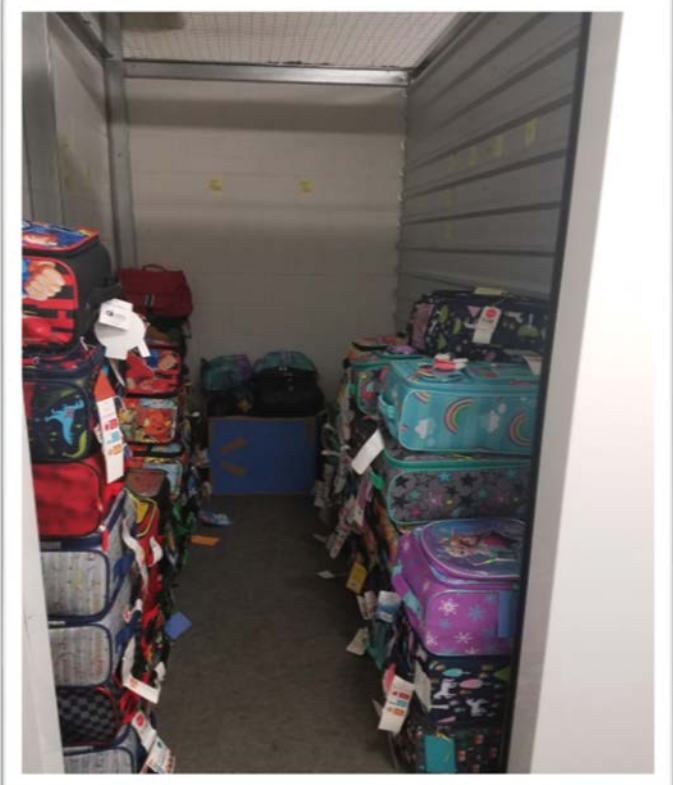
Your email

- Request form contains 13 questions
- If you have questions or would like to talk more about a specific situation, please feel free to give us a call.

WHAT RESOURCES DO WE HAVE AVAILABLE?

- Medicaid reimbursement funds to help with clothing, hygiene kits, shoes, school supplies, and one-time emergency food cards
- Help with payment of school fees and waivers (uniforms included)
- Foster and Kinship Resource Directory
- Home visits from program liaisons
- Suitcase Project
- Community and school district navigation
- Website, which includes all Federal Programs teams:
<https://childservices.dpsk12.org>

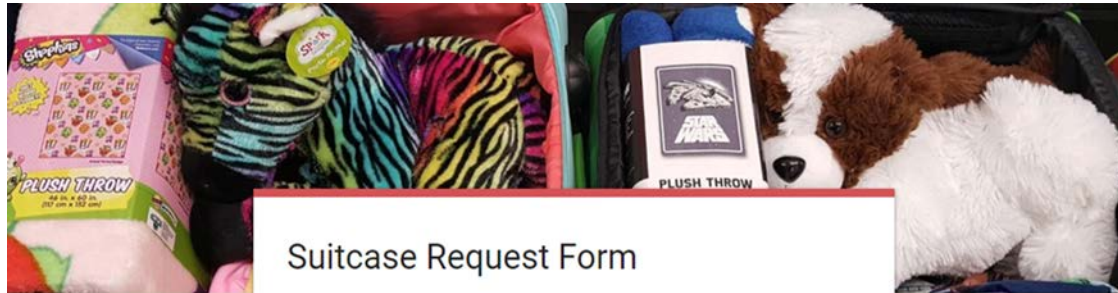
PROGRAM “STORE”



- Our inventory can change and we do our best to meet requests.
- We are able to meet providers or school based staff at the store with students to pick out items

SUITCASE PROJECT/COMFORT BAG

<https://forms.gle/ipP3bV8K6tyhtPtr7>



Suitcase Request Form

The Suitcase Project is designed for supplying basic need and comfort items to DPS students during an emergency removal from their home. The concept of the project is to supply needed items for the first few days of out of home placement that a student doesn't have access to. The hope is to have this to the student on the first night of their emergency removal. If this request can be completed as early in the day as possible that will allow for us to deliver promptly.

The suitcases are funded by donations and our best attempt will be made to fulfill each request. We ask that requests be made based on need and the inability to have access to their items or a financial barrier to the provider where the child will be placed.

Please contact us for any questions you may have. Website info: <https://childservices.dpsk12.org>

* Required

Email address *

Your email

The suitcase project is designed for supplying basic need & comfort items to DPS students during an emergency removal from their home. Comfort bags can be provided if the removal time has elapsed but the student is still in need of these items. Available for all grades/sizes.

ESSA HOME VISIT PROGRAM

- ESSA liaisons have a home visit program for foster and kinship families
- Visits are offered to all families referred to the program by DPS and DHS
- Visits are voluntary and can occur in a variety of settings
- Purpose of the visit is to personally meet the caregiver and provide information about ESSA supports, so they have a resource and a contact person in the district
- Visits typically occur during school hours and student is not required to be present, as visit is geared towards the caregiver
- We are finding that once we have made a personal connection to the providers, they have been more likely to reach out to us for other needs and supports

RESOURCE DIRECTORY



Contains 26 pages of community resource information, including assistance with:

- Rent
- Food
- Employment
- Child Care
- Legal
- DPS
- Utilities
- Housing

We can email you a copy or you can find it on the foster care website page <https://childservices.dpsk12.org>

A LITTLE ABOUT OUR TEAM

- Program Liaison Heidi Krebs, MSW, serves the Central, Near Northeast, Far Northeast, and portions of the Southeast regions of the district
- Program Liaison Allison Drexel, MA, serves the Northwest, Southwest, and portions of the Southeast regions of the district
- Program Manager Jackie Bell oversees the program
- Collectively, our team has experience in the areas of human services, education, and child welfare
- We are engaged in ongoing training on trauma informed practices

HOW TO REACH US

- Jackie Bell: Program Manager for Military and Foster Care Initiatives under ESSA

Jackie_Bell@dpsk12.org, 720-423-1801

- Allison Drexel: Program Liaison for Military and Foster Care Initiatives under ESSA

Allison_Drexel@dpsk12.org, 720-423-1807

- Heidi Krebs: Program Liaison for Military and Foster Care Initiatives under ESSA

Heidi_Krebs@dpsk12.org, 720-423-1808

Commons pages:

- <http://thecommons.dpsk12.org/Page/2109> Foster Care
- <http://thecommons.dpsk12.org/Page/1480> Military





OUR CREDO

**We are invested in removing barriers for success in school
by providing supplemental resources**

**We aspire to provide comfortable care and positive service in
support of the whole child**

**We pledge to be consistent, timely, flexible and knowledgeable in
our partnership**

We connect resources to students, caregivers and community

Helping where we can. One support at a time.

