



We are excited to partner with you on behalf of foster care and military-connected students. We are a newer program within the Federal Programs Department. When the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was introduced in December 2015 to replace No Child Left Behind, new legislation was added to provide additional guidance for foster care and military-connected students. In July 2017, our program was formed to ensure DPS compliance. As we learned more about the potential barriers for foster care and military-connected students we enhanced our program to provide resources and direct support.

For the 2020-2021 school year, we have three staff: *a program manager and two program liaisons.*

Areas we can support identified foster care and military-connected students are:

- Program request form with DPS schools for foster/military students needing supplemental assistance
- Website <https://childservices.org>
- Foster and Kinship Resource Directory (on website)
- Educational publications ([on website](#))
- Foster Care Board Policies- in line with ESSA and HB 18-1306 ([on website](#))
- In- person or virtual mini trainings for DPS staff on the newer guidance
- Mobile Book Library
- High School Journal Program
- Suitcase/Comfort Bag Project
- Provider/guardian home visits from program liaisons
- "Store" set up to share our program donations
- Funds to help with clothing, hygiene kits, shoes, and basic needs
- Help with payment of school fees and uniforms
- Direct assistance with the Clothes to Kids referral (can do the letter and shop for students that cannot get to location)

The current guidance is extended to *formalized out of home placements* (child welfare involvement for foster and kinship care) and *active duty military students*. We are happy to talk with you on individual student situations to see how our program might be able to provide additional support.

Allison Drexel serves SW, NW schools and some SE schools (that are closer to central and SW) allison_drexel@dpsk12.org

Heidi Krebs serves Central, FNE, and SE schools (that are the most eastern) heidi_krebs@dpsk12.org

or you can complete the program resource request form: <https://goo.gl/forms/EpciRvkfx6Dw8hUL2>

Please reach out for any questions, referrals, or training opportunities.

Sincerely,

Allison Drexel, Liaison for Military & Foster ESSA Program (720) 423-1807

Heidi Krebs, Liaison for Military & Foster ESSA Program (720) 423-1808

Jackie Bell, Program Manager, Title Federal Programs: Foster Care and Military-Connected Initiatives under ESSA (720) 423-1801

Our program 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.