



2020-2021 School Year





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Federal Programs

A MINI TRAINING FOR SCHOOL BASED STAFF
ON ESSA FOSTER CARE AND
MILITARY-CONNECTED TITLE PROGRAMS

WHO ARE WE?

- We are a resource for DPS foster care, kinship, and military-connected students and families
- We are ensuring DPS is in compliance with these federal guidelines, and we also have worked to increase services that include resources and direct support
- For the 2020-2021 school year we have three staff: a program manager and two program liaisons
- We are a part of the Federal Programs Department and are housed at the Acoma campus



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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 and DPS student that has an active duty military parent or guardian



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DPS REQUEST FORM LINK

<https://goo.gl/forms/nkZnw7awBsoVD6812>

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 *

- It contains 13 brief questions
- If you have general questions please just give us a call. You don't need to complete a request form.



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WHAT RESOURCES ARE 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)
- Home visits from program liaisons
- Community and school district navigation
- Suitcase/Comfort Bag Project
- Mobile Book Library
- High School Journal Program
- Direct assistance with the Clothes to Kids referral (can do the letter and shop for students that cannot get to location)
- Foster and Kinship Resource Directory (on website)
- Foster Care board policies- in line with ESSA and HB 18-1306 (on website)
- Website, which includes all Federal Programs teams:
<https://childservices.dpsk12.org/>



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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/COMFORT BAG PROJECT

<https://forms.gle/1fKbcVua5E6euVfv8>



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 and comfort items for 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.



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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 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 use 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 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, child welfare, and adoption
- We are engaged in ongoing training on trauma informed practices



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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

Website:

<https://childservices.dpsk12.org/foster-kinship-care/>



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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.



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QUESTIONS?
Please reach out to us



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Thank you!