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Federal Programs

ESSA Foster Care and Military-Connected Programs

Resources For High School Students

ESSA Foster Care & Military-Connected Program (s) Overview

- The ESSA Foster Care and Military-Connected Program is a resource for DPS students in foster care and students with active duty military parents/guardians
- 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, and we have also worked to increase services that include resources and direct support
- Resources available for identified students include supplemental school readiness items such as backpacks, supplies, clothing, shoes, hygiene items, payment of school fees and school uniforms, free school meal assistance, community and school district navigation, home visits, and advocacy
- Resource requests can be submitted electronically using the link <https://forms.gle/j5DzqyqTZoMYMu3j8> , or contact your program liaison for support



Resources Specific to High School Students

- We have college and career readiness and adult transition resources for students experiencing foster care and military-connected students available on our program websites:
<https://childservices.dpsk12.org/foster-kinship-care/>
<https://childservices.dpsk12.org/military-connected/>
- These resources include links to information about scholarships, grade level passports with helpful suggestions for high school students, a link to the Confirmation of Foster Care Dependency form, FAFSA tips for students in unique living situations, and more
- Our program can support students with school related fees that may require financial assistance; this can include cap and gown fees for seniors

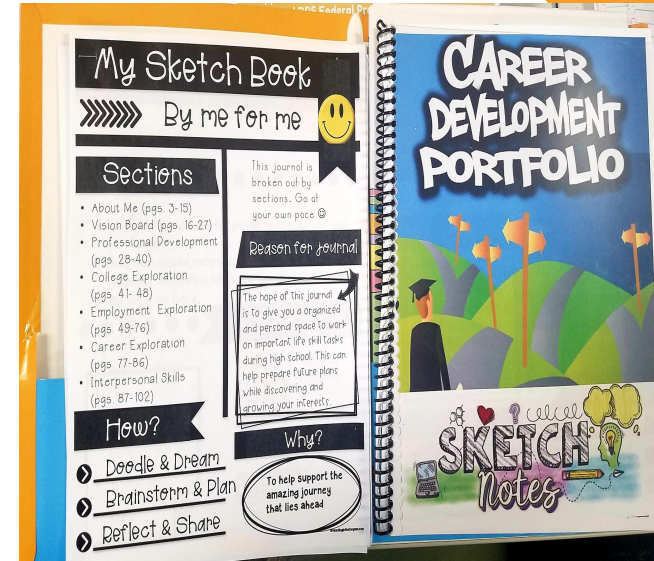


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High School Journal Program

- This school year we are offering an incentive-based journal program with high school students, which offers mentorship in support of college and career goals
- Students who participate in the program can earn gift cards as an incentive for their work, which allows them to celebrate their efforts with a fun treat or activity
- The journal is a workbook that students can complete at their own pace, and includes sections on professional development, college, employment, and career exploration, and interpersonal skills; there is also a vision board section that supports students in thinking about life after high school, hopes and dreams, and the attribute and skills they can use and develop as they move forward into adulthood
- Program liaisons support students in this work through face to face meetings and discussions about journal topics, and providing the opportunity for students to share their thoughts and explore connections they make to their own life experiences
- For more information or to refer a student, please contact your program liaison or complete a program request form



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Scholarship Resources For Students In Foster Care

Forward Steps

- Scholars receive 1:1 mentoring and support throughout college
- Provides assistance of up to \$6,000 per academic year to cover unmet financial need while attending college
- <https://www.forwardsteps.org/become-a-scholar/>

Foster Care to Success

- Application window January 1st through March 31st annually
- Application criteria available on website
- \$2,500 to \$5,000 per year
- <https://www.fc2success.org/our-programs/information-for-students/>

Together We Rise

- Applications open in Spring 2021
- 10 awards available within four states
- Up to \$90,000 for financial support and guidance throughout and after college
- <https://www.togetherwerise.org>



Scholarship And Grant Resources For Military-Connected Students

The Army Emergency Relief:

- Maintains the MG James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children
- Scholarship provides financial assistance for military-connected students who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree
- <https://www.aerhq.org/Apply-for-Scholarship>

Military With Kids:

- Provides a list with diverse military-connected grants and scholarships on the website
- <https://militarywithkids.com/100-military-kids-scholarships/>

Scholarships For Military Children:

- This program is offered through the commissaries and the Fisher House Foundation
- Each commissary awards a \$1,500 scholarship to a selected recipient
- Open to children of active duty, reserve, guard, retired, and fallen service members
- <https://www.militaryscholar.org/sfmc/index.html>

Thanks USA:

- Offers scholarships for military spouses and children
- <https://www.thanksusa.org/>



Adult Transition Resources for Students Experiencing Foster Care

Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center Legal Advocacy for Young Adults

- This program provides young people who have experienced homelessness, foster care, or other trauma with support and resources needed to successfully transition into adulthood
- Services for young adults include free legal and clinical support to help them navigate the transition to adulthood, including: obtaining birth certificates and state/other identification documents, expunging a juvenile record, securing public assistance/government benefits, addressing landlord disputes, and providing training, consultation, and resources for youth and young adults
- More information is available at <https://childlawcenter.org/young-adult-legal-advocacy/>

Mile High United Way's Bridging the Gap program:

- Mile High United Way's Bridging the Gap program works one-on-one with young people ages 18-24 who have exited the child welfare system
- Resources include housing support and independent living coaching
- More information is available at <https://unitedwaydenver.org/bridging-the-gap/>

Denver Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

- The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program was created to assist youth in successfully emancipating from the foster care system, and to provide ongoing support to young adults as they overcome the hurdles of living independently
- More information is available at <http://denverchafee.org/>



Additional Guidance For Students In Foster Care and Military-Connected Students

- The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Foster Care Education Program provides technical assistance around educational issues for youth in foster care, including guidance, which can be found at:
https://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/fostercare_index
- District guidance for students in foster care placement can be found at:
<https://childservices.dpsk12.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/72/19.20-Foster-Care-ESSA-Guidance-Flyer-for-school-staff.pdf>
- The Denver Public Schools Board of Education has policies for students in foster care; policies JFABE and JFABE-R can be found by going to <http://board.dpsk12.org/>; select Access Board Docs, click on Policies in the upper right corner of the page, click on J “Students”, and select JFABE and JFABE-R to read these policies
- District guidance for military-connected students can be found at:
<https://childservices.dpsk12.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/72/19.20-ESSA-Military-Connected-Students-Guidance-Flyer-for-school-staff.pdf>
- The Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) addresses key educational issues that are encountered by military families such as eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation; the Colorado Department of Education provides guidance related to the compact at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/militaryinterstatecompact-detailed>



How To Reach Us

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Program Websites:

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

<https://childservices.dpsk12.org/military-connected/>



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