

McKinney Vento;

Kinship/ Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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PREGNANT/PARENTING TEENS;

Foster Care

## McKinney Vento (MV):

October has brought us a few challenges and a few barriers as we attempt to identify and make contact with previouse MV students. As I reconnected with students and families, I was able to prioritize providing education about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and how it applies to families and students. Many families, like most people, do not realize that their current living circumstances may meet the eligibility criteria (see attachment). As families learn more about the law and what it means for them, their perspectives often begin to shift. They gain a better understanding of the support and resources available to them, as well as the rights and protections afforded to their children through McKinney-Vento.

These conversations have been meaningful because they allow me to not only intentionally connect families with resources, but also help them feel seen, supported, and empowered to advocate for their students. Building that understanding and trust has been an important part of my everyday efforts.

I am meeting regularly with Marisa Britton-Bostwick, Federal Grants Coordinator and State Foster Care Point of Contact and Justine Gutherie, State Coordinator for Homeless and Title I Specialists. I want to ensure we have accurate data for our upcoming statewide accounts and these ladies have been a great support to helping me solve specific barriers and provide assistance verifying state foster care data.

**Professional Development-** The majority of the district staff have received Professional Development at each of their respective buildings. This annual training includes basic McKinney-Vento information and procedures for referring families/students to me. As requested from staff, I will have a resource folder including the Professional Development presentation and staff/student appropriate videos for all to view or review at their own discretion. I have planned to have all district staff trained by the end of September. I will then offer training to community partners.

During registration, we had around **209** students self identify as living in **Non-Permanent Substandard Housing** and **215** students self identify as living in **Permanent Substandard Housing**. I am currently working to make contact with each individual family to have further conversations regarding their living situation and verify/make a determination.

We requested a copy of the Boarding Dormitory application and will distribute those to buildings and to the entire district via email when we receive a copy. I am hopeful we will be able to upload a video to our district website, showing the upgraded BBD and all it has to offer.

***We've identified and ENROLLED #127 students who are experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2026/2027 SY.***

## Food Pantries-

I am currently working on the Town Pump Charitable Foundation Grant application. This grant typically awards between $10,000 and $15,000, which would provide valuable support for our families and pantry resources. With the continued rise in food costs, this funding would allow us to forecast and plan for approximately three months' worth of food for our pantries, helping us better anticipate and meet the needs of the families we serve. As usual, we will continue to refer families to the local food pantry and the Commodity Office for additional food assistance and resources.

### Clothing Closets:

We are encouraging students at BHS and BMS to partake in organizing the clothing closets so they are aware and share the resource with other students. So far this month, the BMS clothing closet has met the needs of 17 students and 4 have received community service for helping organize. BHS has met the needs of 9 students and 3 have received community service for helping organize the clothes.

***We've identified and ENROLLED #6 students who are pregnant or parenting during the academic year 2026/2027 SY.***

### Teen Parents:

Four of the six teen parents are currently enrolled in school. We are working to identify additional opportunities for the two teen parents who are credit deficient but remain interested in earning their high school diplomas.

Some of the barriers they are currently experiencing include finding reliable childcare options during evening hours and accessing transportation. We are exploring available resources and alternative pathways that may help address these barriers and support their continued progress toward graduation.

## ***October Outreach and Professional Development Opportunities***:

- Continuation for identification of McKinney Vento, Grandparents raising Grandchildren, Foster Care, and Teen parents/students.
- High-Tiered Community of Practice Fall Meeting- focusing on Title ID Neglected and Delinquent Students and Educators. (See Attachment)
- National Association of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference. (See Attachment)

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Thank you,
Irene Augare,
Parent Community Outreach Program, Director