About Us

School offers children stability, friendship, and opportunities to learn and grow in a safe environment. School also offers children a chance for better jobs, better pay and a better future.

The McKinney-Vento & Foster program aims to identify all students within Torrance Unified that are experiencing housing instability or in foster care.

The program ensures legally required educational rights and protections for these children and youth.



Program and services are provided through TUSD Building Bridges project in Student Services

Annually the project coordinates 20-30 master's degree social work and counseling interns who provide case management and quarterly events for students and families experiencing homelessness or in foster care.

Need assistance or have questions?

Nancy Gutierrez, Ed.D, Coordinator
Parent/Community Engagement
Homeless/Foster Liaison
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District Social Worker
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Building Bridges

Mckinney-Vento & Foster Program

SERVING FAMILIES IN TRANSITION



Who is Foster?

- Any student with an open dependency court case (subject to 300 or 309 petition)
  - Does not matter where they live (e.g., foster home, group home, relative home, biological parent)
- Youth on probation with an open delinquency case in criminal court (be subject to 602 petition)
  - Do not need to be found guilty and placed on probation, only need to have a charge alleged against them
  - Does not matter where they live (e.g., foster home, group home, relative home, biological parent, juvenile hall or camp)





TUSD Services

- Provide one on one support to meet unique needs of students
- Connect students and families to district, school, and community resources
- Provide enrollment information and support, with or without required documents
- Assist students in remaining at their school of origin
- Free/reduced meals
- Transportation services
- Tutoring
- Assistance to English learners
- Summer school programs (when available)
- Before and after school programs (when available)
- Pre-School programs
- Dispute resolution
- School Supplies
- Individual and group counseling for students and parents
- Access to our special events (food, hygiene, clothes, holidays, etc.

*Services and/or goods provided by TUSD DO NOT have to be reported to DPSS, CalFresh, Cal Works, GAIN, WIC, Medi-Cal, or ANY other government, private, or public program or agency

McKinney-Vento
Serving Students In Transition

Who is Homeless?

The federal government's legal definition of homelessness based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act is anyone who is

- Lacking a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence
- "Doubled up" with family or friends because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- Living in a shelter, hotel, or motel
- Living in a public place not designed for sleeping (cars, parks, abandoned buildings)
- A child who is not in the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian.
- A child (and family) fleeing domestic violence
- Child or youth abandoned in hospital
- Migrant child who qualifies under any of the above



It could be any child in your classroom