Foster and Homeless Youth: Bridging the gap toward education & wellness

Presented by: Pam Wilder
Director Foster/ Homeless Youth Services
DNUSD/ DNCOE
Key Takeaways

• McKinney Vento Program
  • Homeless Facts & Figures
  • Define “Homelessness”
  • Define “Homeless Children”
  • Identifying Homeless Youth
  • Referral Process

• Foster Youth Program
  • Foster Youth Facts & Figures
  • Foster Care Specifics
  • Identifying Foster Youth

• Homeless & Foster Students’ Rights

• How Can we Help?
McKinney Vento Program
Homeless Facts & Figures

• 1.5 million homeless school-aged children nationwide reported in the 2017-2018 school year.

• 269,000 in California in the 2018-2019 school year; “enough children and teens to fill the Dodger Stadium five times over” (Newberry, 2020).

• Del Norte has identified 170 homeless students in the 2020-2021 school year- this is approximately 4% of our total student population
Defining “Homelessness”

Per the McKinney- Vento Act, youth are considered homeless if they lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence:

- **“Fixed”** - Means stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- **“Regular”** - Means nighttime residence available on a predictable or routine basis.
- **“Adequate”** - Means the residence is sufficient for both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home environment, including adequate and quiet space for studying.
When is a Student Considered Homeless?

The McKinney-Vento Act provides the following examples of homelessness:

• Sharing housing due to economic hardship (doubling up)
• Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds
• Living in emergency or transitional shelters
• Park benches, cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
• Unaccompanied minors who are not in the physical custody of their parent or guardian
Identifying Homeless Youth & the Referral Process

How to identify:
With the help of teachers, counselors, and especially site secretaries

Referral Process:
By filling out and submitting our Google Form, our coordinator can determine eligibility for the program and services, and our director can add students to Aeries.
Foster Youth Services
Foster Youth Facts & Figures

• Close to 56,000 children are foster youth in California
• Foster youth are 7X more likely to have depression and 5X more likely to have anxiety compared to non-foster youth
• 58% of all foster youth graduate high school
• 1 out of 5 foster youth are at grade level in English/language arts in 3rd grade, and only 9% are at grade level in math in 8th grade
• Less than 10% enroll in college
• By age 26, just 4% of former foster youth have successfully obtained a Bachelor’s degree
• There are currently about 130 students in the Foster Program in Del Norte County, 14 of whom attend DNHS
Foster Care Specifics

Program 190

• WIC: 300- A minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile dependency court due to abuse or neglect
• WIC: 602- A minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile delinquency court due to the minor breaking of the law

Program 193

• Tribal Foster Youth- A minor placed under the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court

May be placed in the home, in a licensed foster home, with a relative, or in a group home
Identifying Foster Youth

A new student or change in placement of current student...

- Through Foster Focus Program
- The social worker, probation officer, Tribal Court
- Foster or Bio Family

Information will be added to the Foster Details section within Aeries. Currently, school admin and counselors will have access to this page.
# Foster Details Page

## Aeries Student Information System

### 2021-2022 | Del Norte Unified School District

**Foster Details**

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### Programs

- Foster Details (BETA)
- Special Education
- Special Programs

### Other

- Multi Student Search
- Reports
- View All Reports
- View All Forms
- Query
- Alert Hub
- Log Out

### Foster Details

- History (0)
- Cases (1)
- Attorneys (0)
- Education Rights Holders (1)
- Hearings (1)
- Placements (0)
- Notes (0)
- Summary Report Notes (0)
- Meetings (0)
- Action Plans and Goals (0)
- Documents (0)
- Team Contacts (4)

### Navigation Options

- Expand All
- Collapse All

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Homeless & Foster Youth’s Rights
• A free & appropriate public education (FAPE)
• Choose to either stay in their school or origin (school last attended or school attended when child was removed from their home or lost permanent housing) or attend the school closest to their shelter or temporary home.
• Immediate enrollment even when medical/immunization records cannot be produced at the time of enrollment.
• Receive assistance with transportation if needed.
• Graduation rights: to stay for a 5th year to complete district graduation requirements or, if they are behind credits and cannot reasonably complete credits, they may be eligible to graduate by completing only the state graduation requirements (130 credits vs. 220 or 210).
How Can We Help?

Patti Rommel
Foster Youth Services Coordinator

Jennifer Velasco
Homeless Youth Services Coordinator
• Referrals to supports:
  • Tutoring
  • Counseling (school/ community based)
  • Housing
  • Food banks
• Transportation
• Clothing
• School supplies
• Hygiene supplies
• General support
• Attend IEP, 504, & SST meetings
• Review for potential credit waivers for qualified students
• Educational case management
• Network with our community partners
• Provide training & support for our school district staff (both certified & classified)
Questions?

pwilder@delnorte.k12.ca.us

707-464-0722 (ex. 10722)
Thank You!