

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The H.E.L.P. Program can assist with many resources for students, including but not limited to:

- » School supplies
- » Clothing/school uniforms
- » Hygiene items
- » Birth Certificate Fee Waivers
- » Enrollment assistance
- » Transportation to school of origin
- » Setting up tutoring services
- » Free breakfast and lunch
- » Community agency referrals
- » Assistance with referrals to Special Education or 504 services
- » Assistance acquiring immunizations/ medical records
- » Assistance acquiring school records
- » Summer programming
- » Verification of Independent Status for FAFSA (Unaccompanied Youth)

* Funds are also available to help students with transportation if needed to participate in school tutoring. These funds are limited to available supply.

*The H.E.L.P. Program cannot provide monetary assistance for housing. We are happy to provide referrals to our local community agencies.

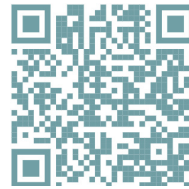


RESOURCE REFERRAL FORM

www.fwisd.org/referral



H.E.L.P. Program
HOMELESS EDUCATION | LINKING PARTNERS



WWW.FWISD.ORG/HELPPROGRAM

817.814.2875

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FORT WORTH ISD

H.E.L.P. PROGRAM

INFORMATION FOR
STUDENTS EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS



H.E.L.P. Program
HOMELESS EDUCATION | LINKING PARTNERS

WHAT IS THE HELP PROGRAM?

The H.E.L.P. program supports students experiencing homelessness through the funding of the McKinney-Vento Act. We collaborate with campus and district personnel to assist with identifying, enrolling and providing wraparound services to these students.

HOMELESSNESS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness as any individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

This can happen for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to:

- » **Economic Challenges**
Loss of job, poverty, affordable housing availability
- » **Health challenges**
Mental health, physical health, substance abuse
- » **Trauma**
Natural disasters, abuse, domestic violence

POSSIBLE LIVING SITUATIONS



Doubled-Up

Living with friends or relatives



Unsheltered

Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, or substandard housing



Shelters

Living in emergency or transitional housing



Hotel / Motel

Includes trailer parks, campgrounds, or similar settings

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

The student's living arrangement meets the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness.

AND: The student is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

This may look like students who:



Are couch surfing



Have run away



Have been kicked out of their home

HOW TO HELP (TEACHERS & CAMPUS STAFF)

Help us identify students experiencing homelessness. Notify student support services personnel if you believe a student may be experiencing homelessness and you do not see that they are currently identified in Focus.

SIGNS

- » Poor health
- » Inconsistent attendance
- » Withdrawn
- » Behavior inconsistent with peers their age
- » Lack of stability
- » Vague statements such as:
 - “We’ve moved a lot”
 - “I don’t remember my last school”
 - “We’re staying at my uncle’s for now”

» Monitor student progress and provide interventions when necessary.

» Communicate with student support services personnel if you notice sudden declines in academic performance or changes in attendance.

PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS

- » Immediate enrollment – even if lacking normally required documents
- » Enrollment in the local school; or continued attendance at their school of origin (the school where they were enrolled before becoming homeless and moving out of the zone) if this is requested by the parent/guardian and is feasible
- » Free breakfast and lunch
- » Transportation to and from their school of origin, if requested by the parent/guardian and if feasible

LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

This is a small list of available community resources in Tarrant County. For more resource information, scan the QR code or visit www.fwisd.org/helpresources.

- » **211**
Texas Directory to available resources including housing/shelter, employment, food, clothing, legal aid, and crisis/emergency support.
Dial 211 for assistance.
- » **Tarrant County Homeless Coalition**
This coalition partners with many local resources (including shelter information, rental information, health and medical referrals, etc.) through TCHC.
817.509.3635
- » **Tarrant Area Food Bank**
Find local food pantries and apply for food benefits.
817.857.7100

RESOURCES
www.fwisd.org/helpresources

