



Department of Family Services



Department Profile

ISD Family Services reduces barriers to student success including family crisis, poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, child abuse or neglect and mental health concerns. Community partnerships include:

- Missouri Children’s Division - Prevention of child abuse and neglect (**Van Iten Caring for Kids Project**)
- TMC Behavioral Health – Education and training for staff regarding impacts of trauma and resilience (**Trauma Sensitive Schools**)
- Early Education/Children’s Trust Fund – Case management services and education for pregnant and parenting teens (**Teen Parenting Program**)
- MO DESE/Various community partners – Educational protection and support services for homeless students and families (**McKinney-Vento Homeless Services**)

Since 1992, Family School Liaisons (FSLs) have helped families send their children to school ready to learn, helped parents be effective partners in their students’ education and have created opportunities for children and families to be safe, healthy and life-long learners. FSLs help families cope with crisis or problem areas in their lives, conduct comprehensive assessments, assist with goal planning and connect students and families to needed resources in the school and community.

Leadership

Merideth Parrish	Director of Family Services	Central Office	(816) 721-2953
Nicole Sequeira	McKinney-Vento Liaison/FSL Coordinator	Central Office	(816) 719-6255
Angie Schnetzer	Homeless Case Manager/FSL	Bridger/IA Campus	(816) 213-3233
Kimberly Stewart	Teen Parenting Support Specialist/FSL	Truman High School	(816) 352-9402

Roles of Program Personnel

Fonda Williams, Family Services Administrative Assistant, processes all bookkeeping for the department and outside funders of the Family Services Department. She can be reached at (816) 521-5300.

Nicole Sequeira, McKinney-Vento Liaison/Family Services Coordinator, focuses on many Department issues, daily support to Family School Liaisons and the administration of Homeless Services.

Angie Schnetzer, Homeless Case Manager, is the point person for identifying students and families that are experiencing homelessness and connecting them to services that foster stability.

Kimberly Stewart, Teen Parenting Support Specialist, works to ensure teen parents have the resources and support necessary to raise healthy families while being successful in school.

Merideth Parrish, Director of Family Services, leads all Department efforts including daily management of staff and FSLs, crises response and troubleshooting with all building principals, the expansion of the community schools model and the ongoing development of a continuum of care that ensures student achievement and community development partnerships and projects that create more stable neighborhoods for students and families.

Key Services & Programs

Family Services Department: Programs & Services

Family School Liaisons	Van Iten Caring for Kids Project	Services for Homeless/Unaccompanied Youth
Trauma Sensitive Schools	Success Court (Nowlin)	Truancy Court
Holiday Helpers	FAST/FAST Works	Teen Parenting Support
District Benevolence	Cargo for Kids/Coats for Kids	ACE Club (Chrisman High School)
Tabitha’s Closet	Community Service Referrals	Mental Health Response Team Coordination

By the Numbers: Direct Social Service Highlights for 2016/17

- Direct contact with almost 1/3 (approx. 4,800) ISD students
- Logged more than 17,400 hours of direct contact with parents and students
- More than 5,000 home visits
- 634 families received at least 1 month of case management
 - of these families, more than 1,450 kids received case management services
- More than 3,500 referrals to community and district resources

By the Numbers: Program & Services Highlights for 2016/17

- Average **37,000** Harvester's Backsnacks distributed to ISD students annually
- More than **9,000 backpacks** (w/supplies) and **10,000 coats** distributed to ISD students since 2008
- Holiday Helpers since 2012:

Families	Unaccompanied Youth	Kids	Volunteer Hours
812	93	2,144	24,387

- Change Challenge dollars raised since 2012: **\$73,173.10**
- More than **1,800 student graduates** from ISD Success Court since 2008
 - Since 2008, graduates achieve an average attendance percentage increase of **12% each year**

McKinney-Vento Homeless Services in ISD

- McKinney-Vento (MkV) first went into effect 30 years ago and was recently revised as part of ESSA in December 2015
- MkV provides specific rights and protections to students who are identified as homeless as well as placing specific requirements on all schools that receive federal funding (including charter schools)
- MkV provides formula grants to states; States award through competitive subgrant process.
 - Nationwide – only about 24% of Districts receive subgrants
 - In Mo – 10 districts received grant funding (3 year cycle). In 2017, ISD received the max allowable per year (\$150,000) for 3 years
- **MkV Definition for eligibility:**
 - Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- **MkV Requirements of Districts and Local Liaisons:**
 - Must identify MkV students
 - Post public notice of MkV rights to parents & youth
 - Provide professional development & support staff
 - Connect young children to preschool, HeadStart and early intervention
 - Transportation to school of origin
 - Provide support for duration of school year
 - Immediate enrollment without normally required documents
 - Best Interest Determinations
 - Eliminate all barriers to full participation
- **ISD's Steps of Support under MkV Services**
 1. **Identify & Enroll:** New enrollments during ISD online enrollment process or through Admissions Specialist(s)
 2. **Verify:** FSL/Homeless Services Team meets with family to gather further information about housing situation
 3. If eligible for MkV: always consider least disruptive options first, including remaining at school of origin
 4. If new or returning to the ISD and are doubled up: verify housing through FSL home visit and/or residency affidavit process
 5. **Support:** Ongoing support from FSLs through active case-management, grant funds and homeless benevolence, tutoring, graduation assistance and more!