

The "Kids In School Rule" is a collaborative effort between the Cincinnati Public Schools and local agencies which work with students in foster care. Begun in 2008, the goal is to improve the educational outcomes for children with a focus on high school graduation. Targeted outcomes are increased attendance, improved coordination among systems, and reduced discipline. This initiative creates equitable opportunities for children to participate in after schools and extracurricular activities.

Although the WPS does not have this specific initiative, the Administration does engage with local agencies to coordinate and improve the support of children in foster care. At the building level, the Administrative team and school adjustment counselor are aware of students' living situations as they are disclosed. Additionally, staff from the WPS Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Department meet bi-monthly with Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff, including the Area Director, to review the specific needs of children in foster care. This information is shared with building teams. Staff are receiving ongoing professional development throughout this school year on trauma-informed topics and focusing on supporting the development of resiliency in students. School adjustment counselors also work with DCF and foster parents to connect outside clinicians and therapeutic mentors working with children to the school based team to coordinate care. Students in foster care are encouraged and supported to participate in after school and extracurricular activities. School staff work with DCF and foster parents to provide continuity of participation.

The homeless students are defined as those living in shelters, hotels/motels, doubled up, and those who are unsheltered. WPS works with a variety of agencies to coordinate support for homeless students.

There are currently multiple initiatives in District that are funded through the state to support the complex needs of students whose families are homeless. Under the current McKinney Vento Grant, WPS assists with arranging transportation for students to attend school, provides stipends for staff to work outside of school hours to provide additional tutoring supports, funds field trips, extracurricular activities (and when needed equipment), summer programming/camps and cultural enrichment activities throughout the year for students and families.

Funding is also available for emergency needs of students, including clothing, school supplies, household goods, personal care items, and transportation for families, and for parents to attend school meetings activities. Funds have also paid for busing to KYSN and community activities. Staff meet regularly with shelters and community providers, to be able to keep parents apprised of current resources. The Administration has created resource guides, which are widely distributed throughout the community. Since the last grant, the Administration has had a "Housing Stabilization Advocate," who works full time to help parents navigate the challenge of securing affordable, stable housing. She reaches out directly to families (targeting doubled up families, who are largest percentage of population, and frequently not eligible for housing related supports and services) and offers support, referrals, and workshops in partnership with the Worcester Housing Authority, modeled after A Better Life classes, previously available only to WHA residents. McKinney Vento also provide Head Start Home visitor to area shelters, and has purchased washing machines, and supplies for schools with high number of students living in homeless situations. Each school is able to identify students eligible for McKinney Vento supports, and reaches out to parents to see what they feel would be helpful. If additional supports were available, level of supports could be increased.

WPS is committed to students living in these complex situations, and will continue to engage in practices that support them through these challenging experiences.

- A set of key data indicators and an expanded Cincinnati Public Schools' Learning Partner Dashboard that shares specific data about KISR! students and generates reports to inform the project
- An operations manual, an education specialist manual, and a KISR! Liaison handbook to describe procedures that apply to KISR! students and the roles and responsibilities of the specialized positions
- An enrollment protocol to ensure KISR! students do not miss instruction time
- A trauma-informed consultation program
- Automatic school fee waivers for students in KISR!