

UTTUA  
Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student  
Support Services



The University of Texas at Tyler  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**ACADEMY™**

To Whom it may concern,

Welcome to the UTTUA! We are committed to supporting students who meet the needs of our Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student population which includes McKinney-Vento, Foster care, Migrant, Military Connected and Pregnancy Related Services. The mission of UTTUA is to ensure that all students have access to programs, resources and support that helps create foundations towards their academic success.

Your student has been identified for the following program(s):

- ❑ **McKinney-Vento:** Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.; hereafter the McKinney-Vento Act), guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness.
- ❑ **Foster care:** The general term “foster care” for education purposes includes all students in the managing conservatorship (legal custody) of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This includes students placed by DFPS with a Kinship caregiver, when the child remains in the legal custody of Texas DFPS. Acceptable documentation includes all forms in the 2085 series.
- ❑ **Military Connected:** *Students in K-12th grade* dependent on a current or former member of one of the following: U.S. military; Texas National Guard (Army, Air Guard, or State Guard); or A reserve force. The student was a dependent of a member of the U.S. military or reserve force who had fallen in the line of duty. *Pre-Kindergarten* students who are dependent on an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces who is ordered to active duty by proper authority. A dependent of the armed forces of the United States including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces who is injured or fallen in the line of duty.
- ❑ **Pregnancy Related Services:** [Texas Education Code §29.081](#)(d) identifies a student at risk of dropping out of school if the student is pregnant or is a parent. Pregnancy Related Services are support services, including Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI), that a pregnant student receives during the pregnancy prenatal and postpartum periods.

For additional information about programs or services please contact:

Nikki Hart, M.Ed.  
District Testing and Academic Coordinator  
Office: 903-663-8121 Email: [nhart@uttyler.edu](mailto:nhart@uttyler.edu)

## Important District Contact Numbers

District	Longview campus
Child Nutrition: 903-566-6173 Special Education/504: 903-730-3996 District Nurse: 903-730-3981 Mental Health Counselor: 903-565-6514	Main line: 903-663-8219 Registrar: 903-663-8298 Nurse: 903-663-8109 Counselor: 903-663-8215
Palestine campus	Tyler campus
Main line: 903-727-2321 Registrar: 903-727-2326 Nurse: 903-727-2329 Counselor: 903-730-3939	Main line: 903-730-3988 Registrar: 903-730-3988 Nurse: 903-730-3981 Counselor: 903-730-3939

## Anderson County Community Resources

### **Crisis Center of Cherokee and Anderson Counties**

313 West Debard  
 Palestine, TX 75801  
 (903)723-5858  
 Confidential Hotline 1-800-232-8519

### **Palestine Community Food Pantry (Pantry)**

1434 Court Dr  
 Palestine, TX 75803  
 (903)723-5406

### **St. Vincent de Paul - (pantry/thrift store)**

503 N. Queen  
 Palestine, TX 75801  
 903-729-2436 or 903-729-5093

## Gregg County Community Resources

### **Caring and Sharing**

Pantry and financial aid

1303 S. Mobberly Ave.  
Longview, Tx 75602  
903-234-9521

**Helping Hands of Kilgore**

Pantry and food stamp assistance  
201 Martin St.  
Kilgore, TX  
903-984-1796

**Hi-way 80 Rescue Mission**

Shelter  
3117 W. Marshall  
Longview, Texas  
903-759-9875 or 903-759-8101

**Longview Dream Center**

Food pantry and clothes closet  
Location - 803 Gilmer Road  
Longview, Texas  
903-653-1740

**New Hope Missionary Baptist**

Address: 413 Roden  
Gladewater, Texas  
(903) 845-5633

**Newgate Mission**

Soup kitchen, shelter, clothing, services  
207 S. Mobberly  
Longview, Texas  
903- 757-6146

**Smith County Community Resources**

**Salvation Army of Tyler**

633 North Broadway Avenue Tyler, TX 75702  
(903) 592-4361

**Habitat for Humanity of Smith County**

822 W. Front Street Tyler, TX 75702  
Administrative Office: (903) 595-6630  
ReStore: (903) 531-0072

**Hi-way 80 Rescue Mission**

Gateway to Hope  
601 East Valentine St. Tyler, TX 75702  
(903) 363-9265  
Triumph Village  
12781 Hwy 64 W. Tyler, TX 75704  
(903) 630-5366

**PATH**

Food pantry, dental and vision services, utility, rent, and housing assistance  
402 W. Front Street Tyler, TX 75701  
(903) 597-7284

**East Texas Crisis Center**

P.O. Box 7060 Tyler, TX 75711  
(903) 509-2526  
Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

**City of Tyler Neighborhood Services**

900 West Gentry Parkway Tyler, TX 75702  
(903) 531-1303

**East Texas Food Bank Foundation, Inc.**

3201 Robertson Rd. Tyler, TX 75701  
(903) 597-3663

**St. Paul Children's Services**

Food pantry, medical, dental, vision, counseling, social work, and foster care assistance

1358 East Richards Tyler, TX 75702

(903) 595-5525

## Student Handbooks, Guidelines, and Information

- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Parent Code of Conduct](#)
- [Attendance Requirements/ Report and Absence](#)
- [Student/Parent/School Compact](#)
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [College and Career Advising](#)
- [CTE Handbook](#)
- [Scholarships](#)
- [Transcript Request](#)
- [Graduation FAQs](#)
- [Parent Engagement Portal](#)
  - Includes Participation in Clubs, Counseling Services, Health Services Consent, Data Collection Consent, and Parental Rights and Options

## Additional Information About Rights and Services Under the McKinney-Vento Act

Children and youth experiencing homelessness face unique challenges in accessing and succeeding in school. Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.; hereafter the McKinney-Vento Act), establishes the definition of homeless used by U.S. public schools, and the educational rights to which children and youth experiencing homelessness are entitled.

### **What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Definition?**

The term “homeless children and youth”:

A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and

B. includes —

- i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals,
- ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...,
- iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- iv. migratory children...who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

### **What rights do students have under McKinney-Vento?**

The right to immediate enrollment depending on available seats.

- A school must immediately enroll a homeless student, even if the student does not have documents normally required for enrollment, such as academic and medical/immunization records or proof of residency. Once enrolled, the Homeless Education Liaison of the school must help the family obtain the necessary records and/or immunizations.

The right to choose what school to attend.

- Students have the right to continue attending their “school of origin”. The “school of origin” is the school where the child or youth was last enrolled or the school the child or youth was attending when s/he became homeless. The school district shall keep a student in the “school of origin” unless it goes against the wishes of the parent. The student also has the option of enrolling in school where he is currently living.
- When a school is requested by the parent, the district must provide the parent with a written explanation of the decision, which includes the right to appeal the decision.
- The school district must make placement decisions based on the best interests of the student.
- If a student obtains permanent housing during the school year, the student has the right to stay in their current school until the end of the school year.

Under the Act, every school district is required to have a Homeless Education Liaison. It is the job of the Liaison to ensure that homeless students have the same opportunities as all other students, which includes ensuring that homeless students are able to attend school, arranging for transportation in a timely manner, keeping the school staff informed of the rights of homeless students and providing appropriate referrals to service providers. UTTUA designated Homeless Liaison: Nikki Hart, [M.Ed](#), 903-663-8121; email: [nhart@uttyler.edu](mailto:nhart@uttyler.edu).

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## School Enrollment and Services for Foster Care Students

Under Texas law, students in foster care are entitled to immediate enrollment when arriving at a new school or district — regardless of whether they have the necessary documentation and paperwork. Enrollment at UTTUA depends on available seats and disciplinary history. CPS caseworkers are required to enroll a child in school within three (3) school days of the child either: a) being placed in CPS custody; or b) moving to a new school or placement. The caseworker then has up to 30 days to provide all necessary enrollment paperwork to the new school.

Follow up to ensure a student:

- Has his or her records requested and received,
- Is placed in the appropriate grade level and classes,
- Receives his or her books, and
- Receives special education services, if appropriate.

## Texas Systems Working Together to Transform Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care

**The following laws are identified in the Texas Education Code addressing students in foster care:**

- Data sharing and data collection requirements in PEIMS - [TEC § 7.029 \(Chapter 1 \(PDF\), p. 16; Chapter 5 \(PDF\), pgs. 45-46\)](#)
- Immediate school enrollment without records - [TEC § 25.002\(g\) \(Chapter 7 \(PDF\), p. 56\)](#)
- Attendance in the school the student was enrolled immediately before entering conservatorship, even when placed outside of the district attendance zone, until the student successfully completes the highest grade level offered by the school - [TEC § 25.001\(g\) \(Chapter 8 \(PDF\), p. 62\)](#)
- Excused absences for court-ordered appointments - [TEC § 25.087 \(Chapter 10 \(PDF\), p. 75\)](#)
- 11th or 12th grade student who transfers to a new school district and does not meet the graduation requirements of the new school district may request a diploma from the former school district, when on-track to graduate at the previous school - [TEC § 28.025 \(Chapter 9 \(PDF\), p. 92\)](#)
- Accelerated instruction (at-risk indicators and compensatory education) - [TEC § 29.081\(d\)\(11\) \(Chapter 6 \(PDF\), p. 51; Chapter 11 \(PDF\), pgs. 82-83\)](#)
- Free lifetime college tuition and fees waiver. The waiver is activated when a student enrolls in dual credit or another course where a student may earn college credit- [TEC § 54.366 – \(Chapter 13 \(PDF\), pgs. 104-106\)](#)
- School districts and open enrollment charter schools are required to appoint a Foster Care Liaison and notify TEA of their Foster Care Liaison appointment - [TEC § 33.904 \(Chapter 5 \(PDF\), p. 44\)](#)
- Transition Assistance from one school to another of students in foster care - [TEC § 25.007 \(Chapter 11 \(PDF\), pgs. 84-91\)](#)
- UTTUA designated Foster Care Liaison-
  - Nikki Hart, M.Ed.
  - 903-663-8121
  - email: [nhart@uttyler.edu](mailto:nhart@uttyler.edu)