

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

To: Steve Smallwood, Director of Pupil Personnel
From: Tiffany Reynolds, McKinney-Vento Program Liaison
Date: January 12, 2026
Re: McKinney-Vento HEART House-Concept Overview

The Department of Pupil Personnel is pleased to share the concept of the **McKinney-Vento HEART House**, a centralized support space designed to better serve BCPS students and families experiencing homelessness.

Purpose & Vision

The HEART House (Helping, Empowering, Accessing Resources Together) will serve as a welcoming, trauma-informed hub providing stability, dignity, and access to essential resources. The vision is to remove barriers to education by addressing basic needs while strengthening connections between families, schools, and community support.

Current & Future Uses

The HEART House will serve as a safe, dignified location where families can access McKinney-Vento services, food and essential supplies, laundry facilities, family meeting space, and student mentoring. As funding allows through grants, donations, and district resources, services may expand to include extended staffing, additional programming days, summer services, and enhanced family engagement opportunities.

Rollout & Recognition

A phased rollout is planned, with a ribbon cutting and community opening anticipated in February-March 2026. The February Board meeting will include formal recognition of community partners and local businesses whose generous donations of materials, labor, and services made this project possible. A slide show highlighting the progress of this project is linked [here](#).

This initiative reflects BCPS's commitment to collaboration, compassion, and ensuring every student has the support needed to succeed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Reynolds, MSSW, CSSW
McKinney-Vento Liaison/District Social Worker

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