

# Colorado Kinship, Kinship Family Foster Care, and Non-relative Foster Care Fact Sheet



Type	Situation	County Child Welfare Involvement	County Supports	What Schools Need to Know
<b>Kinship: Informal</b>	Temporarily staying with a relative or friend.	No county department of child welfare involvement	Child Only TANF \$128 (in all but 3 counties, check your local county for details) Child Only TANF Medicaid	<p>*No legal authority for student</p> <p>*Apply for free/reduce lunch like other students based on household incomes.</p> <p>*Parent(s) still have legal rights as well.</p> <p>*McKinney-Vento eligibility may be determined on a case by case basis as in all McKinney-Vento situations.</p> <p>*Contact your local district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison for additional information.</p> <p>*Parent(s) still have legal rights as well, although the school may appoint an educational surrogate parent to make special education decisions for the child if necessary.</p>
<b>Kinship: Non-certified</b>	The child/youth have been removed by county department from biological parent(s) or legal custodian and are placed with a relative, someone viewed by the family as family-like, or someone that had a significant relationship with the child/youth prior to placement in out-of-home care	Family has CBI & FBI, judicial database, Trails (child welfare automated system) background checks and a court gives them: Allocation of Parental Responsibility (APR) also referred to as Temporary Legal Custody.	Child Only TANF \$128 (in all but 3 counties, check your local county for details) Child Only TANF Medicaid	<p>*Child/youth in non-certified kinship care are categorically eligible for free meals during the sixty (60) day emergency visitation while the county department has custody. Once the free meal benefits have been established for the child/youth, they remain in effect for the entire school year.</p> <p>*If the county department did not assume legal custody or the application was submitted after the kinship caregiver obtained legal custody, child/youth are not categorically eligible for free meals. Non-certified kinship caregivers may still apply for free and reduced meals, but all eligibility requirements will apply.</p> <p>*Parent(s) still have legal rights as well.</p> <p>*Contact your local district's Child Welfare Education Liaison for additional information.</p> <p>*Parent(s) still have legal rights as well, although the school may appoint an educational surrogate parent to make special education decisions for the child if necessary.</p>



<p><b>Kinship: Family Foster Care Home</b></p> <p>Info only-the state certifies foster homes and license businesses like child placement agencies, group homes, RCCFs, etc</p>	<p>The child/youth have been removed by county department from biological parent(s) or legal custodians someone viewed by the family as family-like, or someone that had a significant relationship with the child/youth prior to placement in out-of-home care who has become a certified foster care parent.</p>	<p>Family goes through full certification process to become a foster parent or home.</p> <p>The county that places the child/ youth has legal custody.</p> <p>The county that places the child/ youth has legal custody.</p> <p>(however, if the parents/custodians move to another county, the court may grant a change of venue and the new county of residence becomes the custodial county)</p>	<p>Medicaid Possible Stipend to Foster Parents</p>	<p>*Child/youth are eligible for free/reduce lunch but marking Foster Care on the application.</p> <p>*Unless not in the child/youth’s best interest, the child welfare agency must work with the education agency to ensure child/youth can remain in their school at the time of placement.</p> <p>*When staying in the same school is not in the child/youth’s best interest, child welfare and LEA’s must provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school, with all of the education records of the child/youth provided to the school.</p> <p>*Contact your local district’s Child Welfare Education Liaison for additional information.</p> <p>*Parent(s) still have legal rights as well, although the school may appoint an educational surrogate parent to make special education decisions for the child if necessary.</p>
<p><b>Family Foster Care Home (non-relative)</b></p>	<p>The child/youth have been removed from biological parent(s) or legal custodians and are placed in a family foster care home.</p>	<p>The county that places the child/youth has legal custody.</p>	<p>Stipend to Foster Parents</p>	<p>*Child/youth are eligible for free/reduce lunch but marking Foster Care section of the application.</p> <p>*Unless not in the child/youth’s best interest, the child welfare agency must work with the education agency to ensure child/youth can remain in their school at the time of placement.</p> <p>*When staying in the same school is not in the child/youth’s best interest, child welfare and LEA’s must provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school, with all of the education records of the child provided to the school.</p> <p>*Parent(s) still have legal rights as well, although the school may appoint an educational surrogate parent to make special education decisions for the child if necessary.</p>

**Program Contact:**

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- Kinship definitions from the Colorado Department of Human Services

**County Supports are available depending on the residency of the family.**

- <http://cokinship.org/county.html>
- **CDE Foster Care Education**
- [http://www.cde.state.co.us/DropoutPrevention/fostercare\\_index.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/DropoutPrevention/fostercare_index.htm)
- **CDE Homelessness/McKinney-Vento Act**
- [http://www.cde.state.co.us/DropoutPrevention/homeless\\_index.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/DropoutPrevention/homeless_index.htm)