



November 18, 2019

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

Currently the Tigard-Tualatin School District (TTSD) is serving 158 McKinney-Vento students – students in our district who are experiencing homelessness. Of those, 11 are adolescents rendered to situations where they are alone and have no one to take them in.

There are currently no shelters or temporary housing services available for young people in the Tigard-Tualatin community. TTSD is currently working with organizations to find stability for homeless students, yet those organizations are only able to serve families and youth accompanied by adults. Teens are left to find shelter on their own, which often is in places like vacant buildings. This instability leads students to drop out of school and take jobs to earn money to pay for shelter, food and take care of their basic needs.

TTSD is committed to narrowing the achievement gap for students who are not on track to graduate and those with high levels of absenteeism. Homeless or houseless students are well represented within this demographic. If a young person is navigating the undeniable stresses of not having shelter, school is not a priority. Investing in services that place students in safe and stable housing removes the barriers preventing these students from being successful. This stability helps them to reap the benefits school offers them – meals, caring adults, peer support, physical and mental health services, academic enrichment and more.

Second Home provides the compassionate resources and basic needs all young people deserve – stable, safe and secure housing. Second Home brings welcomed relief for the district and most importantly, for these students. TTSD is proud to partner with Second Home in our work to provide equitable opportunities for every student in our district and we strongly advocate for their support.

Respectfully,

Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith
Superintendent
Tigard-Tualatin School District