



# Roots & Routes

How Community Schools  
Support the  
Educational Success  
of Homeless and  
Housing-Insecure Youth





# AGENDA

- Roots
  - Introduction
  - Intentionality
  - Incident
- Routes
  - Structures
  - Systems
  - Templates



Harborside Elementary Social Worker and Community School Site Coordinator after student weekend food distribution.



# ROOTS INTRODUCTIONS – CVESD



- 28,845 students enrolled
- 18,013 unduplicated
  - 15,852 free and reduced-price meals
  - 7,859 English learners
  - **1,100 students experiencing homelessness**
  - 67 foster youth

2024-2025 Ed Data

- 71.7% Hispanic/Latino
- 8.8% Filipino
- 7.3% White
- 5.7% Two or more races
- 3.6% African American
- 2.2% Asian
- 0.3% Pacific Islander

2023-2024 Data Quest

*"Every child is an individual of great worth."*



# ROOTS INTRODUCTIONS – WHO WE ARE



**Paula Madrigal-Patel, Ph.D.**

Senior Director,  
Student Services



**Joshua Kohler**

Director of Community Schools/  
Chula Vista Community Collaborative

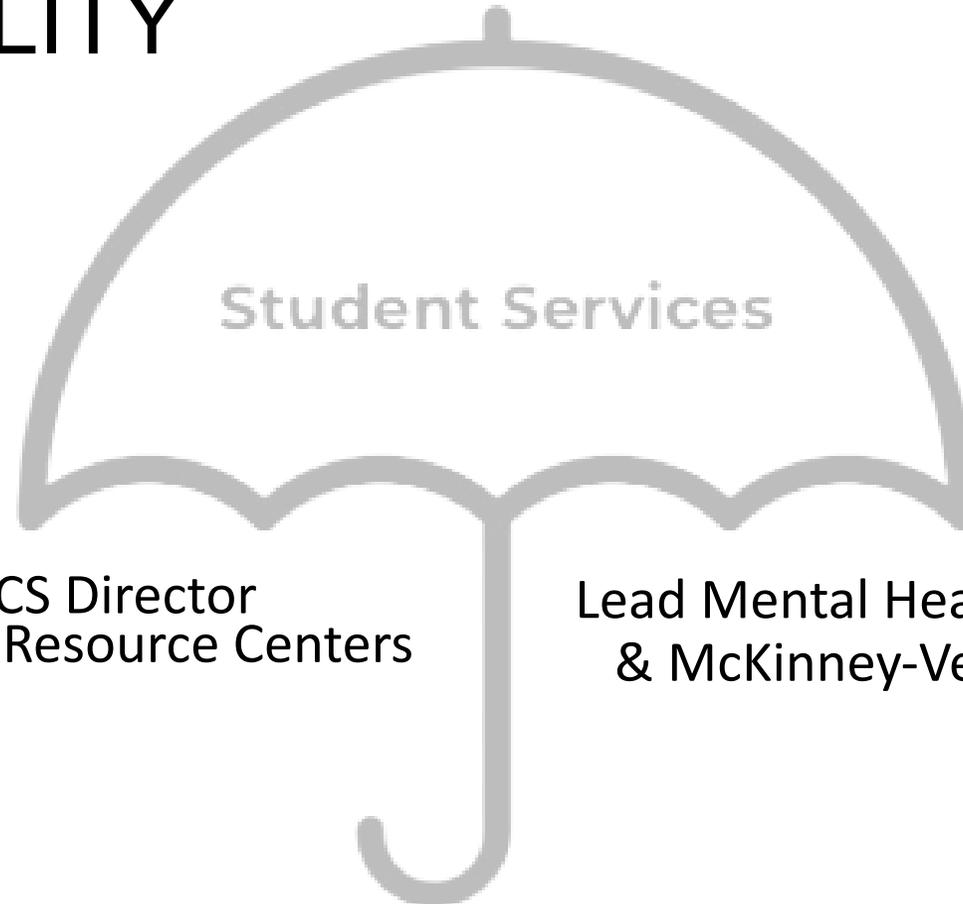


**Julia Sutton**

Lead Mental Health Specialist/  
McKinney-Vento Liaison



# ROOTS INTENTIONALITY



CS Director  
Family Resource Centers

Lead Mental Health Specialist  
& McKinney-Vento Liaison

**Shared workspace = Shared work**



# ROOTS INCIDENT: SOUND FAMILIAR?



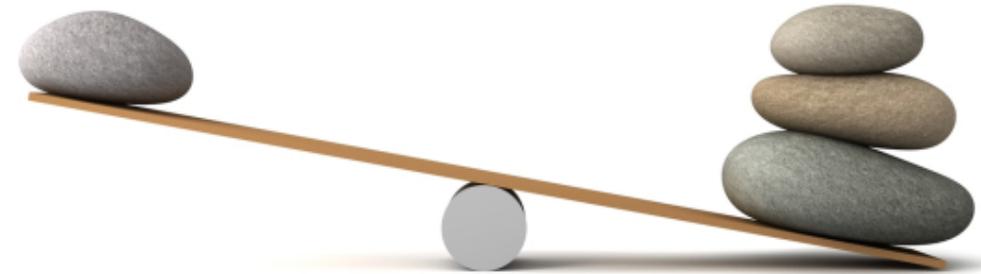
1st grade student eloping from classroom. 3rd and 6th grade siblings seeming more withdrawn. Often late to school. Mom seeking new employment. No family in the area. History of domestic violence. Staying in hotel in Chula Vista.



# ROOTS OTHER SCENARIOS



- High housing costs
- Lack of affordable housing
- Economic inequality
- Health challenges (physical & mental)
- Domestic violence
- Limited safety nets



# ROUTES STRUCTURES: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



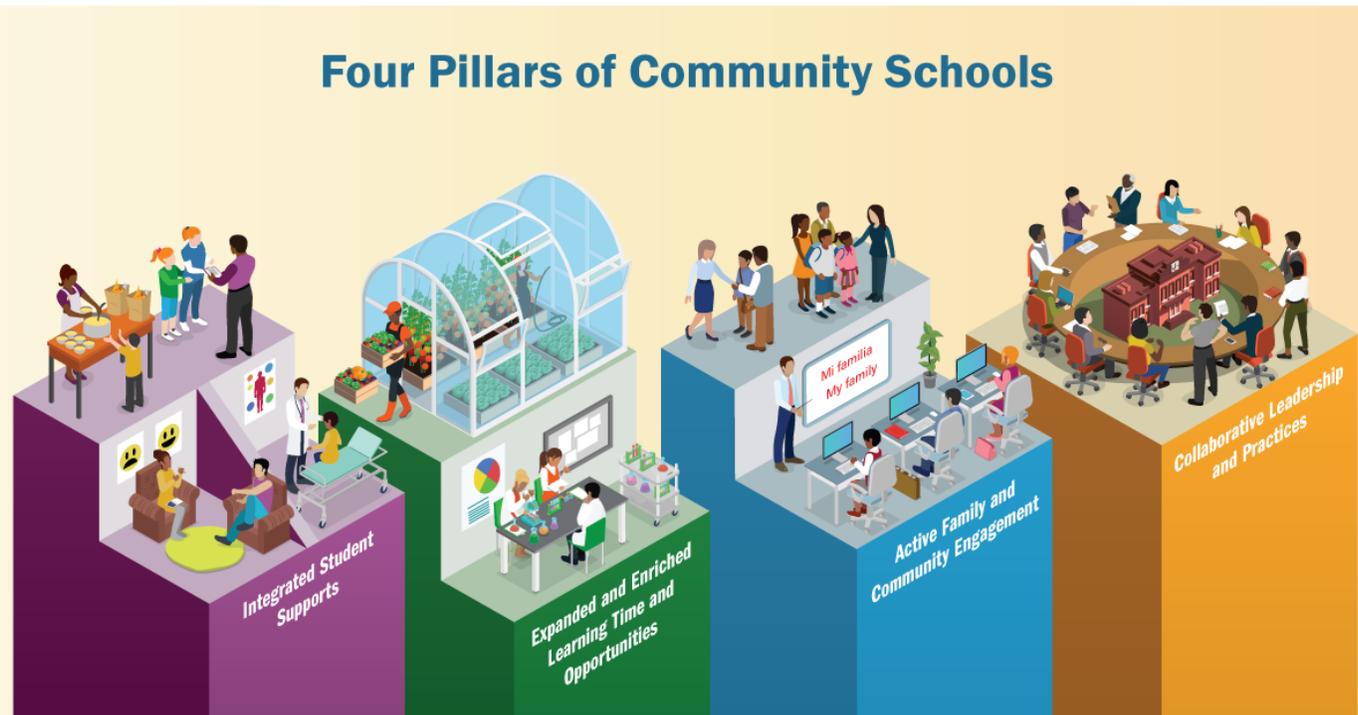
[video link](#)



# ROUTES STRUCTURES: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



## Four Pillars of Community Schools



First Semester 25/26

- 13,047 Resource Connections
  - 5,613 Basic Needs
  - 5,493 Rec & Enrichment
  - 651 Academic
- 269,469 views Digital Outreach
- 12,070 flyers In-person Outreach
- 66 Focus Groups
- 1,438 participants



# ROUTES STRUCTURES: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



**Transform our schools** into student-centered and family-centered hubs

**Improve students' lives** by:

- bringing services into the school
- expanding before, during, & after school opportunities
- making local community partnerships
- sharing decision making with the entire community



**Education Support & Service Center**

Director of Community Schools  
District CS Steering Committee

**School Sites**

Site CS Coordinator  
Site CS Steering Committee  
Focus Groups:  
Students/Families/Staff  
Public Meetings/Town Halls



# ROUTES SYSTEMS: HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE



Enrollment & available ongoing

➔ Community School Coordinator (CSC) first contact

- MKV Liaison training
  - Regular meetings with CSCs
  - Support with referrals



The information provided below will help the Chula Vista Elementary School District determine what services you and/or your child may be eligible to receive. This could include additional education services through Title I, Part A, and/or the federal McKinney-Vento Assistance Act. The information provided on this form will be kept confidential and only shared with appropriate school district and site staff.

Presently, are you and/or your family living in any of the following situations?

- Staying in a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter) or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer
- Living in stable housing, such as a rental agreement apartment, condo, room or house, or living with others permanently
- Living in a car, park, campground, abandoned building, or other inadequate accommodations (i.e. lack of water, electricity, or heat)
- Temporarily living in a motel or hotel due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, or similar reason
- Temporarily staying with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, lack of adequate housing, or similar reasons.

I am a student under the age of 18 and living apart from parent(s) or guardian

- Yes       No

The undersigned parent/guardian certifies that the information provide above is correct and accurate.



# ROUTES STRUCTURES: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



# ROUTES STRUCTURES: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



5 Family Resource Centers

**FREE** Services Offered:

- family support & advocacy
- parenting resources
- health insurance enrollment
- food/clothing assistance and more.



FRC First Semester 25/26

Referrals Received: 922+  
Referral Success Rate: 78.7%

Families Served: 1259+  
Students Served: 1901+

Services Rendered: 11,516+



# ROUTES SYSTEMS: FRC STAFF TRAINING



## Family Resource Centers (FRC)

- Referrals to housing navigation
- Food & grocery gift cards
- Gas gift cards
- Clothes
- Other community referrals
- Holiday support

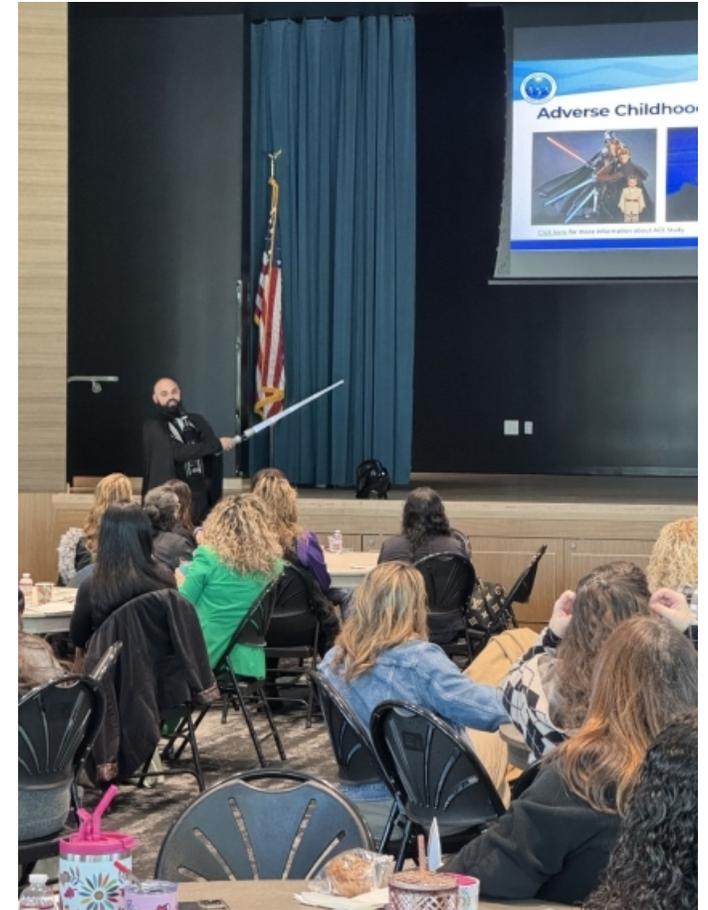


# ROUTES SYSTEMS: ADDITIONAL STAFF TRAINING



Front Office Teams & Transportation Dept  
Inclusion

- Trauma-informed care



# ROUTES SYSTEMS: ADDITIONAL STAFF TRAINING



## School Social Workers & Counselors

- Community referrals
- Trauma-informed care



# ROUTES SYSTEMS: ONGOING COLLABORATION



CSC & School SW partnership = ongoing identification and support for families through trust/relationships



It's been such a fun experience, getting to see the students dressed in green



*Full Sail Ahead: Supporting Students Navigating Smooth & Stormy Waters*

© 2026 CA Homeless Education Conference



# ROUTES TEMPLATES



**County of San Diego  
Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS)**

Provides:

- Assigned worker who contacts family and connects them to all available housing supports:
  - Hotel vouchers
  - Rental/deposit assistance
  - Safe parking
  - Transitional housing programs
  - Affordable housing

Referral Process:  
 ➤ Support family in reviewing/signing [ROI](#), and email to [darren.hessler@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:darren.hessler@sdcounty.ca.gov)



# ROUTES TEMPLATES





Chula Vista Elementary School District  
Department of Student Services  
**Community Schools**  
Last Updated: 5/21/2024

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Chula Vista Elementary School District  
Student Services  
5/21/2024

84 East J Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910  
(619) 425-9000  
Learn more at [ovesd.org](http://ovesd.org)

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube icons

Chula Vista Elementary School District



# ROUTES TEMPLATES



## Mental Health Support Team Counseling Referrals

### CVESD Therapy through Parent Implementation Program (PIP)

CVESD Practicum Students: Complete [referral form](#). Email questions to [christopher.isaac@cvesd.org](mailto:christopher.isaac@cvesd.org).  
PIP has two Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) practicum students this school year. Pre-K through Kindergarten students are eligible for therapy which will be provided at Rogers Elementary school in the PIP space. Referrals only from School Counselors/Social workers, as the LPCC students will only be able to carry a caseload of 5 students/families at a time.

### MediCal

**SBCS Children's Mental Health Program:** Email [referral form](#) to [mmoreno@csbcs](mailto:mmoreno@csbcs). SchoolLink sites can use either [referral form](#). \*MediCal only  
**Nueva Vista:** Call to refer 619-585-7686. \*MediCal or no insurance  
**Para Las Familias:** Call to refer 619-565-2650. \*Any or no insurance!

### Private Insurance

Share therapist information with Julia if you have a recommendation!  
**Para Las Familias:** Call to refer 619-565-2650. \*Any or no insurance!  
Family can call the number on the back of their insurance card to be connected with a covered therapist.

### Low cost

**San Diego State University's Center for Community Counseling and Engagement:** Call to refer 619-594-4918. In-person or online therapy for individuals, couples, and families. \$15 per session, but they never turn anyone away because of a lack of funds.

### Grief Counseling (sliding scale)

**Elizabeth Hospice:** Email [referral form](#) to [childrensbereavement@ehospice.org](mailto:childrensbereavement@ehospice.org). Call to consult: 760-670-3925. Mission Valley in person or virtual.

### Trauma Counseling

**Chadwick Center:** Email [referral form](#) to [afelixcastro@rchsd.org](mailto:afelixcastro@rchsd.org)

Mental Health Support Team

## Community Resources

### Wraparound Services – Any or No Insurance

**SBCS Community Assessment Team** in Chula Vista: Email [referral form](#) to [catreferrals@csbcs.org](mailto:catreferrals@csbcs.org)

**Casa Familiar Community Assessment Team** in San Ysidro: Complete this [link](#)

### 0-5 Years Old – Counseling & Parent Support

**SBCS Healthy Development Services (HDS):** Fax [referral form](#) to 619-420-8722

**Parent Implementation Program (PIP):** Complete this [link](#)

### Behavior Support & Classroom Management Visuals

**CVESD Behavior Support Team:** School Social Workers/Counselors/Psychologists and Principals can use [this link](#) to refer.

For visuals/materials, complete this [link](#).

### LGBTQ+

**The South Bay Youth Center:** Call to refer 619-692-2077

### Crisis

**Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT):** Call 619-831-6890 (passcode: 939690) to come to the school for suicidal assessment and psychiatric emergencies. Families can call 988

**Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT):** Call 911 and request PERT for homicidal threats or violence

**Trauma Intervention Programs of San Diego (TIP):** Call 855-847-7343 or email [info@tipsandiego.org](mailto:info@tipsandiego.org) for 24/7 volunteer to meet family and connect to resources

### Legal Documents

**Chula Vista Presbyterian Church:** Walk-up first Saturday of the month from 9:00am-12:00pm



# ROUTES TEMPLATES



## CS Resource Category Matrix

Resource Category							
Academics	Basic Needs	Professional Engagement/ Development	Early Childhood Care/ Education	Physical Health	Mental Health/ Wellness	Medi-Cal/ Insurance	Recreation & Enrichment
School Related Inquiries	Housing	Adult Education	Preschool, Head Start, Early Head Start	Health Insurance	Mental Health	Document Support	Community Center
Dashboard/ Grades	Utilities	Employment Resources	Childcare	Vision Services	Substance Use/ Tobacco Use/ AOD	Referral to County Agency	Library
Teacher/ Parent Conference	Food & Nutrition	ESL Services	Other early childhood intervention	Dental Services	Crisis Intervention		Museums
Tutoring	Transportation	Adult Literacy	School Readiness	Medical Services	Social- Emotional Wellness		Parks & Leisure
Internship Programs	Clothing	Social Support Network	Parenting Classes	Hearing Services	Depression/ Anxiety		Recreational Activities
College & Career Programs	Personal/ Household Items	Community Group		Injury Prevention			Books
Grade Level Academic Standards	Technology/ Internet	Advocacy & Leadership		Prenatal Care			Academic Activities
	Additional Government Assistance	Parent/Child Activity Services		Infant/Toddler Healthcare			
	Immigration/ Legal Services						

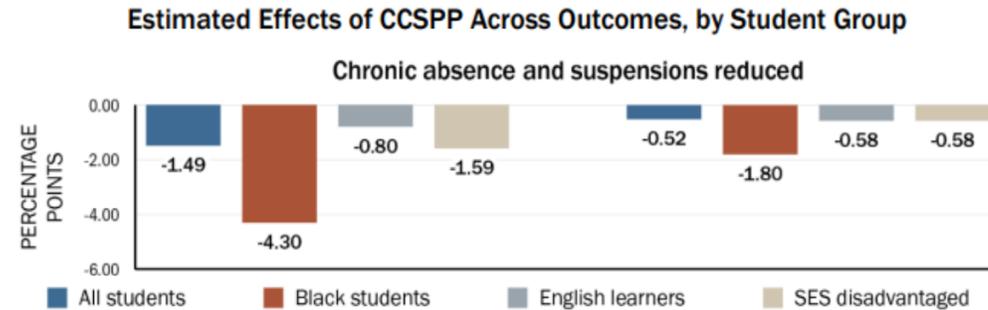


# ROUTES TEMPLATES



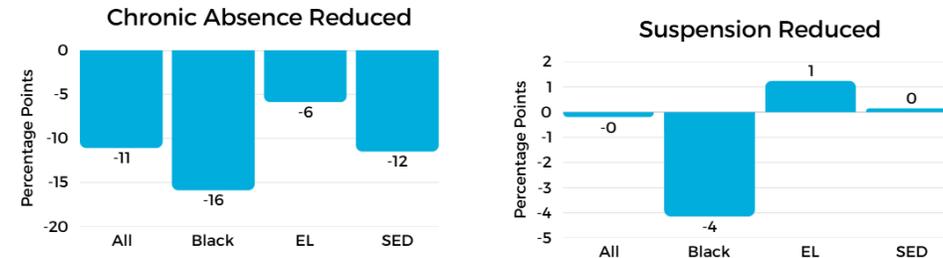
The Learning Policy Institute conducted a research case study on the early impacts of implementing California Community School Partnership Program.

## State CS Data (23/24 school year)



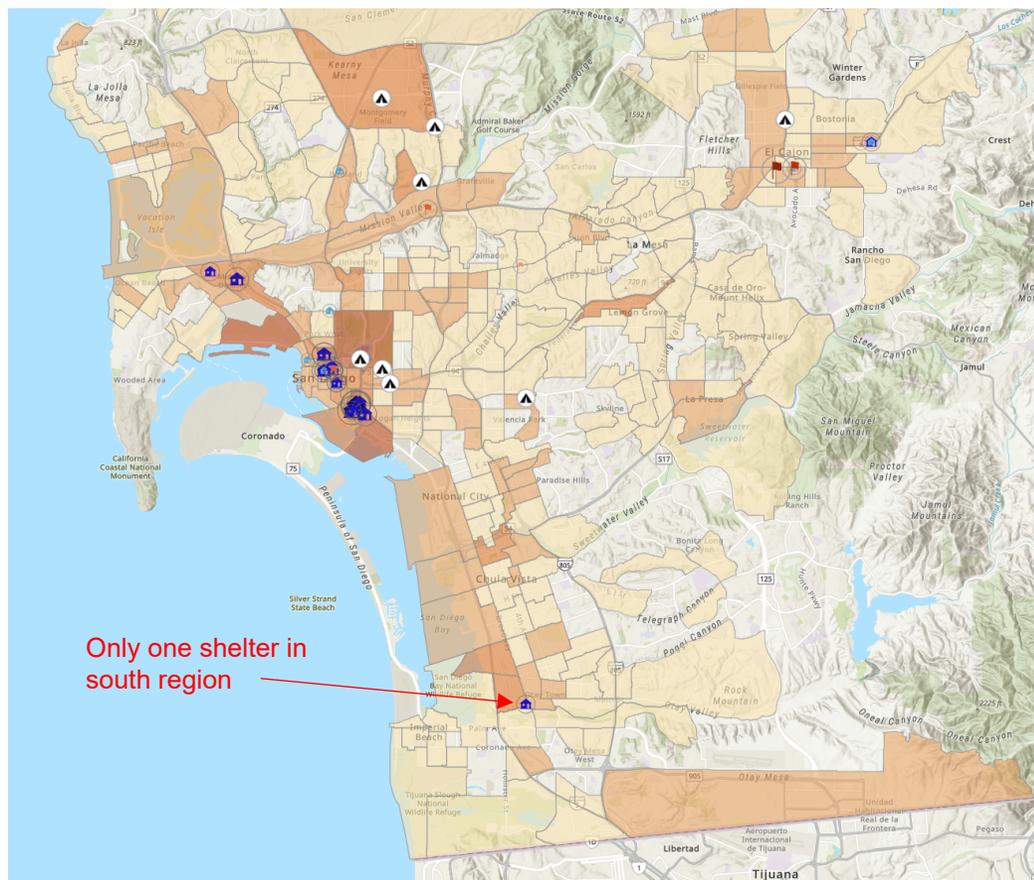
Notes: CCSP = California Community Schools Partnership Program. SES = socioeconomic status. Chronic absence is calculated as the percentage of students who miss 10% or more of the school year. Suspensions are the percentage of students with at least one suspension. Math and ELA California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) scale scores standardized by grade subject and year.

## CVESD CS Data (23/24 school year)





# INCIDENT: FAILING FORWARD



2024 UC San Diego Homelessness Hub

Unless your school has a shelter, sometimes our efforts do not feel like enough...

## Common complications

- Family runs out of hotel vouchers
- No safe parking or shelter locally
- No family in area
- Attendance challenges
- Lose contact with family





# INCIDENT: POSITIVE MOMENTUM

“I am in a sad situation and I am always teaching my girls to be kind, grateful no matter what! Thank you for community schools for showing us kindness and being sweet to us in the situation we are in.”

-Parent of 3rd and 5th grade students



“We love being a Community School model here at Palomar Elementary. Our students and families benefit from the many supports available to us through this important grant such as the food pantry, clothing closet, medical & health services, transportation vouchers, and special events.”

-Teacher



# INCIDENT: SUCCESS STORY



1st grade student eloping from classroom. 3rd and 6th grade siblings seeming more withdrawn. Late to school often. Mom seeking new employment. No family in the area. History of domestic violence. Staying in hotel in Chula Vista.



- Referral to county Office of Homeless Solutions
- Bus passes
- After school program
- Mom employed
- School counseling
- Family Resource Center food & clothes
- County rental assistance after finding apartment
- Stronger connection to school



# ROOTS

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