



**BUILDING
CHANGES**

Helping Students
Experiencing Homelessness:
McKinney-Vento 101

Welcome!

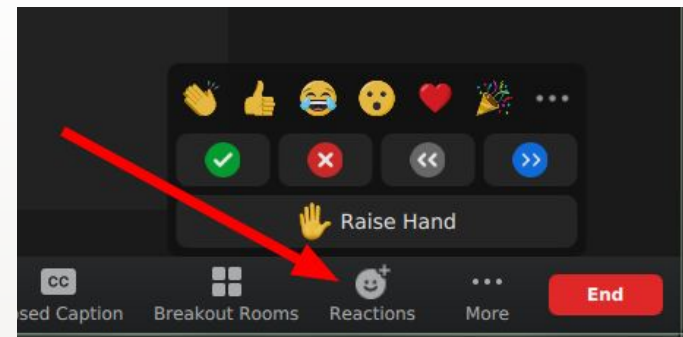
Meet the Building Changes Team!

Land acknowledgement

Please be sure too...

- Put questions in the chat
 - Every question is important!
- Use your reaction buttons throughout
- Raise your hand during Q & A sections
- Remain muted unless called on

Thank you!



Grounding

How are you feeling about this school year?

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We want everyone to be able to answer the following three questions:



WHO IS CONSIDERED HOMELESS UNDER MCKINNEY-VENTO?



HOW CAN MCKINNEY-VENTO HELP STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?



WHO CAN HELP YOU TROUBLESHOOT MCKINNEY-VENTO ISSUES?

What is the Purpose of the McKinney-Vento program?

The MKV program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

- School access
- School stability
- Support for academic success
- Child-centered, best interest decision making
- Critical role of the local homeless education liaison

Rights of students under McKinney-Vento:

- A right to immediate enrollment
- The right to attend the school “school of origin”
- The right to transportation to and from their school of origin
- The right to participate in the same activities as other students
- The right to participate in the same programs and other services provided to other students
- The right to have access to a dispute resolution process, if there is a dispute over school election or enrollment.
- McKinney-Vento also has a broad mandate that requires school districts to revise policies and practices that create barriers to homeless students enrollment and retention. Enrollment includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

McKinney Vento Definition: Who is eligible?

- Children and youth who lack a *fixed, regular, and adequate* nighttime residence.
- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or regularly used as accommodations

McKinney Vento Definition: Who is eligible?



CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO LACK A FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE.



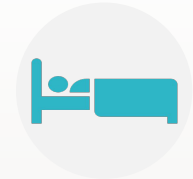
FIXED:
STATIONARY, PERMANENT, AND NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE



REGULAR:
USED ON A PREDICTABLE, ROUTINE, OR CONSISTENT BASIS (E.G. NIGHTLY)



ADEQUATE:
SUFFICIENT FOR MEETING BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS TYPICALLY MET IN HOME ENVIRONMENTS



CAN THE STUDENT GO TO THE... SAME PLACE (FIXED) EVERY NIGHT (REGULAR) TO SLEEP IN A SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (ADEQUATE)?

Homeless Unaccompanied Youth



- Definition: youth who meets the definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's wishes, and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights
- School personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.

WA State K-12 School District Duties

School districts must:

- Designate a homeless liaison in every district.
- Immediately identify, enroll, and provide all services.
- Provide the dispute resolution process as needed.
- Remove barriers and update policies.
- Provide meaningful parent involvement.
- Provide information, including the rights of homeless students.
- Provide assistance on the FAFSA and other higher education efforts.
- Support early learning through coordination with preschool.
- Set aside adequate Title I funds to serve homeless students.
- Provide referrals for services such as medical, dental, mental health, housing, etc.

School of Origin

The school attended when permanently housed or the school in which last enrolled, including a preschool.



Last Permanently Housed

or



**Last Enrolled/
Most Recently Attended**

School of Origin: School Selection



- Each MKV liaison shall, according to the child's or youth's best interest:
- Keep the student in the school of origin:**
 - For the duration of homelessness.
 - In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year.
 - For the remainder of the academic year or
 - Enroll the student in any public school that housed students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living is eligible to attend.

How does an MKV Liaison determine the child or youth's best interest?

- **Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest**, unless contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- **Consider student-centered factors, including**
 - ✓ Impact of mobility on achievement
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Health
 - ✓ Safety
 - ✓ School placement of siblings

Immediate Enrollment



- **Enrollment** includes attending classes(online or hybrid) and participating fully in any school activities of the student's choice.
- McKinney-Vento does not define “immediate”, but the standard dictionary definition is “**without delay.**” Therefore, the student must begin attending classes and participating fully in school activities without delay.

Immediate Enrollment

Under McKinney-Vento students are entitled to immediate enrollment.

- Students are entitled immediate enrollment in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, even if the student **does not** have required documents, such as:
 - ✓ Previous academic records
 - ✓ Immunization or other required health records
 - ✓ Proof of residency
 - ✓ Proof of guardianship
 - ✓ Birth certificate or other documents; or
- If the student has missed application or enrollment deadlines; or
- Has outstanding fees.

Enrollment

Immediate enrollment applies to preschools, if there is space.

- Children identified as McKinney-Vento eligible should be prioritized on waitlists.
- Some preschool programs hold slots open for McKinney-Vento children.

The enrolling school must:

- Obtain school records from the previous school; and the student must be enrolled while records are obtained.
- Immediately refer the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to **the local liaison** who must assist in obtaining immunizations, screenings or immunizations or other health records.
- Immediately enroll students even without a parent or guardian.
- Typically, unaccompanied youth enroll themselves.

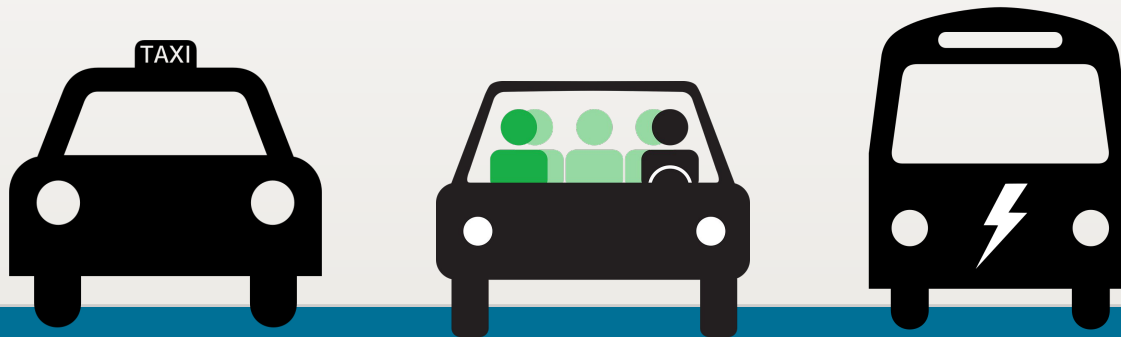
Transportation Obligations

- Provide appropriate and adequate transportation to the school of origin – Eliminate barriers
- Transportation services should begin without delay
- Transportation does not necessarily mean a “Yellow School Bus”



Transportation Staff thinking “outside the bus”

- Transit Passes when appropriate
- Paying parents / family to transport via “in-lieu of” agreements
- Using Contractors
- Using Motor Pool Vehicles
- Exploring Cooperative Agreements & inter-local agreements with other districts / ESD’s



Resolving Disputes

If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment:

- ✓ The student must be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute (including all available appeals).
- ✓ The liaison shall ensure unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled pending resolution of the dispute.
- ✓ The parent, guardian or youth must be referred to the liaison, who must carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.

Resolving Disputes

At minimum, the notice and written explanation should include:

- A description of the action proposed or refused by the school;
- An explanation of why the action is proposed or refused;
- A description of any other options the school considered;
- The reasons why any other options were rejected;
- A description of any other factors relevant to the school's decision and information related to the eligibility or best interest determination including the facts, witnesses, and evidence relied upon and their sources;
- Appropriate timelines to ensure any relevant deadlines are not missed; and
- Contact information for the local liaison and state coordinator, and a brief description of their roles.



Health & COVID-19

How are MKV liaisons able to help young people experiencing homelessness fight COVID-19?

- Many young people are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- While consent from a parent or guardian is often required, some young people, such as unaccompanied minors, may not have a parent or guardian available to provide consent.
- Fortunately, state law (RCW 7.70.065) allows McKinney-Vento liaisons, school nurses, and school guidance counselors to provide informed consent for certain types of health care for this population – including immunizations.
 - This law applies all the time, not just for COVID!
- For more information: [OSPI Bulletin NO. 035-21: Informed Consent for Health Care and COVID-19 Vaccinations for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Ways you can support McKinney-Vento Liaisons and student's access to vaccines

- 1. Help the young person connect to a youth-friendly vaccine provider.**
- 2. Determine how the vaccine provider accepts consent. Verbal? Over the phone? Written? In-person?**
- 3. Coordinate with the young person and McKinney-Vento liaison on when and how they will be providing consent for them.**
4. While not required, it may be helpful to print out and provide the informed consent law ([RCW 7.70.065](#)) and highlight the portion specifically naming McKinney-Vento liaisons, school nurses, and school guidance counselors.
5. While not required, OSPI has a helpful [Sample Informed Consent for Health Care Authorization form](#). You can print this, have the McKinney-Vento Liaison fill it out, and provide this to the young person or vaccine provider.



McKinney-Vento Liaison Panel

Seattle Public Schools

Jeanea Proctor Mills

Tukwila School District

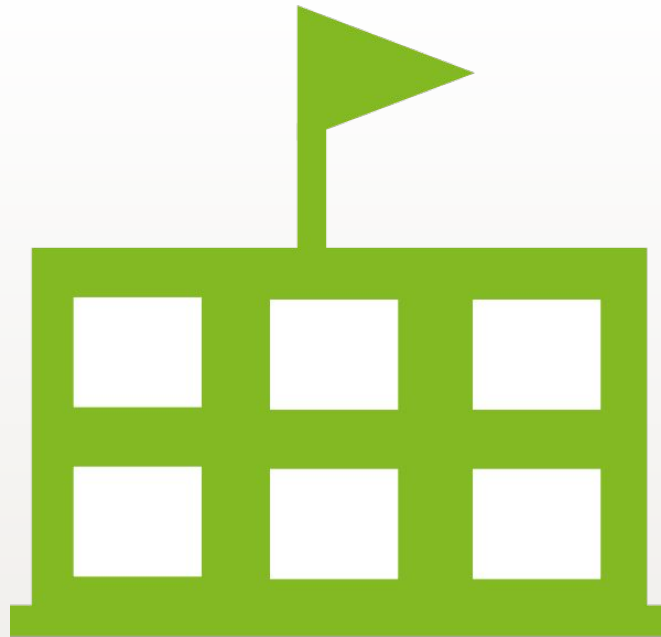
Maryan Abdow

Julie Herdt

Hearing from your local McKinney-Vento Liaisons....

- Please share an example of how you are currently partnering with a housing provider or other community based organization (CBO)?
- How can the community at large support MKV programs?
- What is one thing you wished all CBOs knew about McKinney-Vento?

McKinney-Vento Liaison Q&A



- Please raise your hand or put your question in the chat



Advocate Panel

Solid Ground

Joanna Tarr

TeamChild

Karen Pillar

General Q & A

- Please raise your hand or put your question in the chat



Check-Out

What was the biggest takeaway from today's training?

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Break Out Room Activity

Automatically assigned break out rooms

5 minutes to review the scenario

Return to main room and popcorn share ideas

Scenario 1

Chaya is enrolled at Mission Elementary in the Sojourner Truth School District. Chaya and her mom recently moved to escape an unsafe living situation. They are staying in a confidential shelter 15 miles away, which is in the Frederick Douglass school district. Chaya's mom would like her to finish the year at Mission Elementary, but she is not able to drive her to and from school.

Does Chaya meet the definition of homelessness under McKinney-Vento?

What is Chaya's school of origin?

Can Chaya receive transportation to and from Mission Elementary?

How would the circumstances change depending on the facts – such as Chaya's age, distance of commute, personal safety issues, time remaining in school year?

Scenario 2

Selam moved into the Ella Baker Transitional House with her mom and sisters at the beginning of the school year. Selam's mom is working, but she's having a hard time making ends meet, and cannot afford to pay for Selam's lab equipment fees and tutoring. Selam's mom received paperwork from the school, but it was all in English and English is her second language.

Who can assist Selam's mom with getting information translated?

Under McKinney-Vento, can Selam get her lab equipment fees waived?

How can Selam get tutoring help through the school?

Scenario 3

Ms. Eick's class has language arts every afternoon and one of her students, Katara, is fidgety and anxious, causing problems with other students. She is falling behind in writing and reading since COVID-19 hit, but doing okay in other academic subjects. Katara's parents want the school to test her for learning disorders and possibly receive Special Education services. Assistant Principal Andrew says that the school does not need to do these tests, because Katara's difficulties are environmental and due to her family's homelessness.

How can an understanding of McKinney-Vento help in this situation?

If Katara were not homeless, but the rest of the scenario were the same, how would you expect the school district to handle this?