

Coalition on Homelessness

Helping Homeless Students: McKinney Vento 101 Info & Resource Session

September 3, 2020, 9 – 11 a.m.

Welcome, thank you for joining us! We will get started shortly.

Pre-Survey: <https://forms.gle/GZAbUaLXofvvhY2LA>

Kayla Blau, blaukayla@gmail.com Children's Advocate

Mehret Tekle-Awarun mehret.tekle@buildingchanges.org Senior Manager, Education Strategies, Building Changes

Samie Iverson, samie.iverson@buildingchanges.org Senior Manager, Education Strategies, Building Changes

Oliver Alexander-Adams, olivera@solid-ground.org Children's Advocate, Sandpoint Family Housing

Karen Pillar, karen.pillar@teamchild.org Managing Attorney, TeamChild

Sharonne Navas, sharonne@eec-wa.org Co-Founder and Executive Director, Equity in Education Coalition

homelessinfo.org

Scho
WA

Helping Students Experiencing Homelessness:
McKinney-Vento 101

3

Building Changes works across and within systems to drive and promote equitable responses that address housing crises experienced by people in Washington State, with a focus on children, youth and families.

- School House Washington is a project of Building Changes that focuses on students experiencing homelessness.
- Initiative improve housing stability and advance educational success for the more than 40,000 students in o Washington who experience homelessness.

What we do

- Identify and spread promising practices across Washington State.
- Foster collaboration between schools, housing nonprofits, and other community organizations.
- Influence policy and funding decisions that help communities respond effectively.

Student Homelessness Trends, Characteristics, & Academic Outcomes

- 40,365 students experiencing homelessness
- 6 out of 10 are students of color
- Suspended 2.5 times more often than their peers.
- On-time graduation has improved
- English language arts and proficiency rates have improved
- Per-capita is highest in rural communities.

Presentation goals, to 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

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.

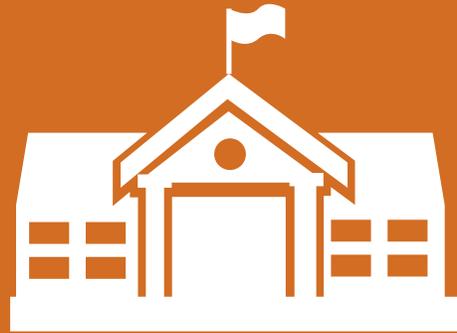
WA State K-12 School District Duties

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.** 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.

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

18

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.

19

Building Changes Conducted a Survey on the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness During the COVID-19 Crisis



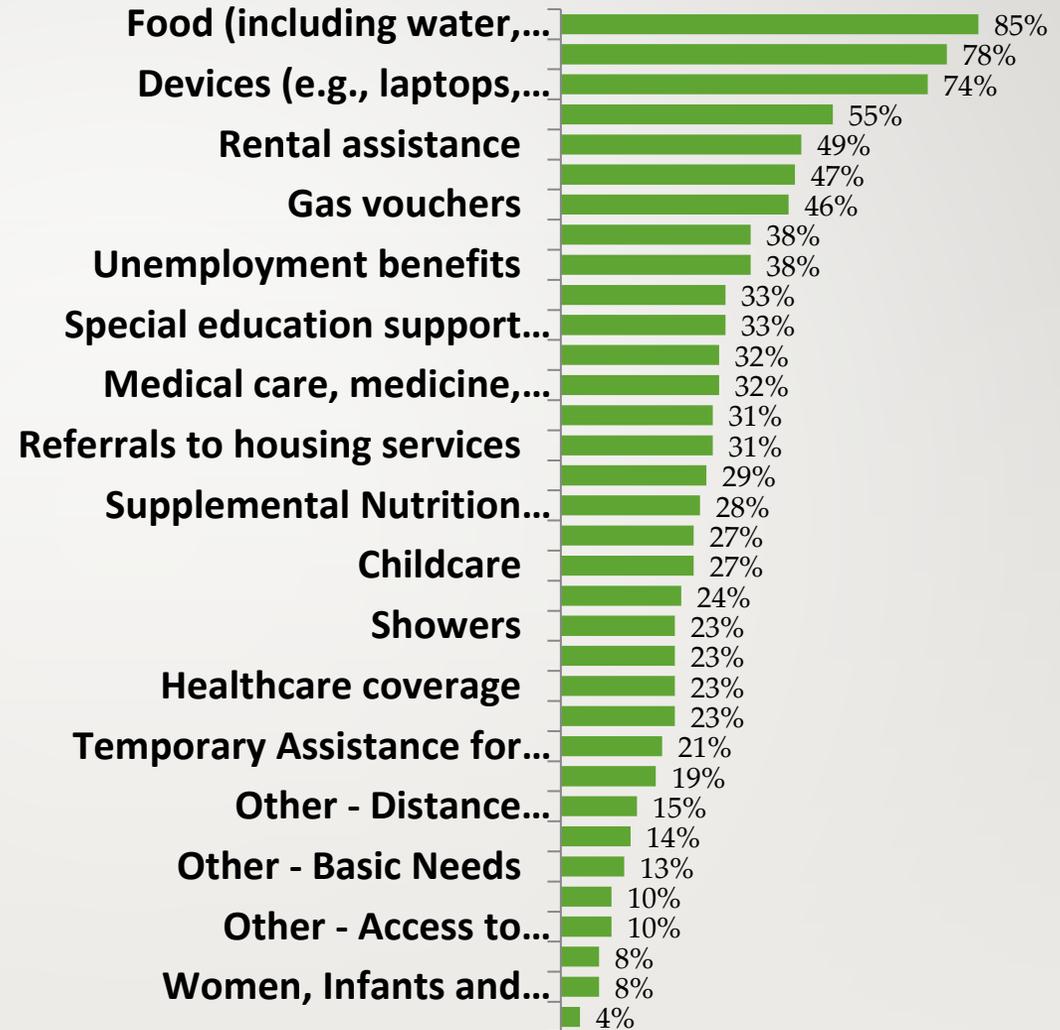
- **Purpose:** To learn more about how students and families experiencing homelessness are being affected by the COVID-19 crisis and how best to support schools in addressing their needs
- **Respondents:** 74 districts from 32 counties
- **Timeframe:** April 6th – April 10th

Top Identified Needs

Across all categories, the top five identified needs were

- Food (85%)
- Mobile hotspots/internet access (78%)
- Devices (74%)
- Hygiene supplies (55%)
- Rental assistance (49%)

All Identified Needs



What Districts are Doing: Qualitative Overview

Food/Basic Needs: Food distribution via bus routes, some individualized food deliveries, weekend food backpacks, collaboration with food banks, and mapping where food resources are available by community.

Educational Access/Technology: Distribution of tablets/chrome books, internet, hot spots, phones, WiFi offered in district parking lots, and offering community WiFi locations. Education packets are being paired with food deliveries in some districts to encourage academic engagement.

Outreach: Liaisons are focused on reaching students and their families by phone, text, email, social media, Google voice, and home visits are still occurring but are very rare. Resource sharing has been happening on school and district websites, across districts, community list serves, handouts at meal sites, robo calls, and newly established COVID directories.

Partnership: Primarily happening with foodbanks. Some loose connections to housing partners. Treehouse advocates, health department, faith community support, and homeless coalition presence.

Cross Systems Supports

- Unique position with transition back to school for students experiencing homelessness
 - ✓ McKinney-Vento Identification and Outreach
 - ✓ Need for community partners and additional support
- Think creatively about opportunities to share the work and build capacity to meet student needs
- Cross systems partnerships allow students to feel connected to their communities and efficiently and effectively navigate resources





COVID-19
RESPONSE
FUND
AVAILABLE
NOW

Samie Iverson & Mehret Tekle-Awarun
Senior Managers, Education Strategy

Prompts for Breakout Room Conversation

Please be prepared to share your responses with the larger group.

Talk through a work challenge you're navigating in relation to kid's education

OR

A Spanish-speaking family receives an email about an IEP addendum and asks you for support about how to respond. They do not have a computer or WiFi at home and the student hasn't been receiving special education hours. The addendum requests to lower the amount of SpEd hours the student receives. What do you do? Brainstorm your first 3 action steps and share with your group.