

Helping Students
Experiencing Homelessness:
McKinney-Vento 101



Welcome!

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe

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



Grounding & Intros

In the chat:

Name/pronoun/job title

How familiar are you with McKinney-Vento resources?

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.



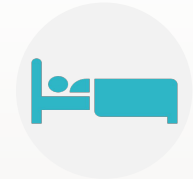
FIXED:
STATIONARY, PERMANENT, AND NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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.



Laws Supporting Unaccompanied Youth

- Unaccompanied youth can consent to their own primary health care if they are unable to obtain consent from an MKV liaison
- Includes immunizations and medical, dental, and vision services
- Unaccompanied youth can obtain state ID cards without identifying documents with the support of an MKV liaison

<https://buildingchanges.org/resources/healthcare-consent-for-unaccompanied-homeless-youth-under-18/>

School of Origin

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



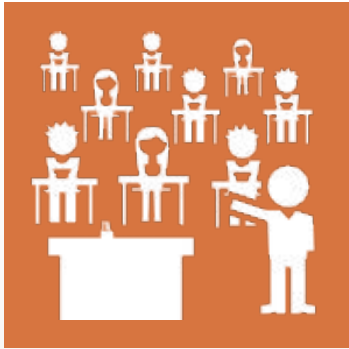
Last Permanently Housed

or



**Last Enrolled/
Most Recently Attended**

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.

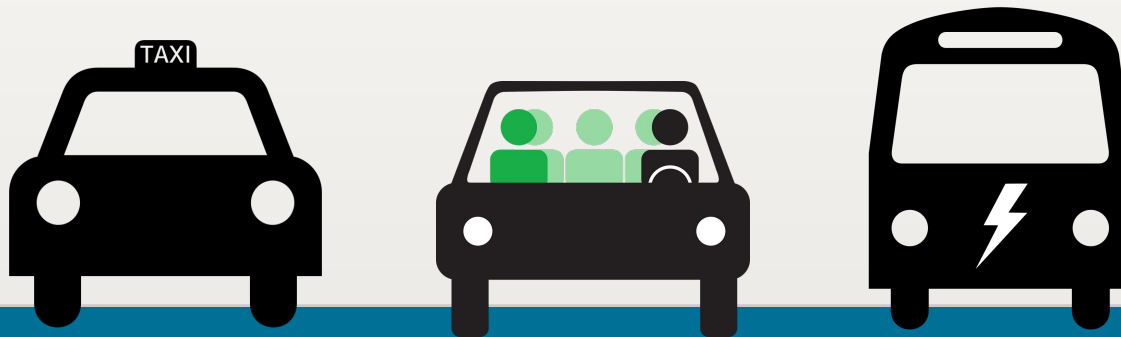
Transportation Obligations

- 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
- Exploring Cooperative Agreements & inter-local agreements with other districts / ESD’s
- Coordinating with local community based organizations to build transportation hubs



Resolving Disputes

If a dispute arises over eligibility,

- ✓ 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.



Resources on Partnerships

- Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC)
- Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP)
 - Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) and OSPI



Resource Fair

- Friends of Youth
- BELONG Partners
 - Kandelia
 - Bright Spark
 - Youthcare
 - Team Child

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?

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?



Break Out Room Activity

Automatically assigned break out rooms

Share scenarios of accessing MKV services that you'd like support with

OR

Discuss example scenario (shared in chat)



McKinney-Vento Liaison Q & A

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, Jasmine, 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. Jasmine'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 Jasmine's difficulties are due to her family's homelessness.

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

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