



McKinney-Vento 101

Emily Sommer | Coordinator

Title IX-A Education for Homeless Children & Youth

Title I-D Neglected, Delinquent & At-Risk Youth



Agenda



- Homelessness
- Relationship between homelessness and education
- McKinney-Vento basics
- Improving your McKinney-Vento program

What comes to mind...



when you think of homelessness?



What Does Homelessness Look Like?



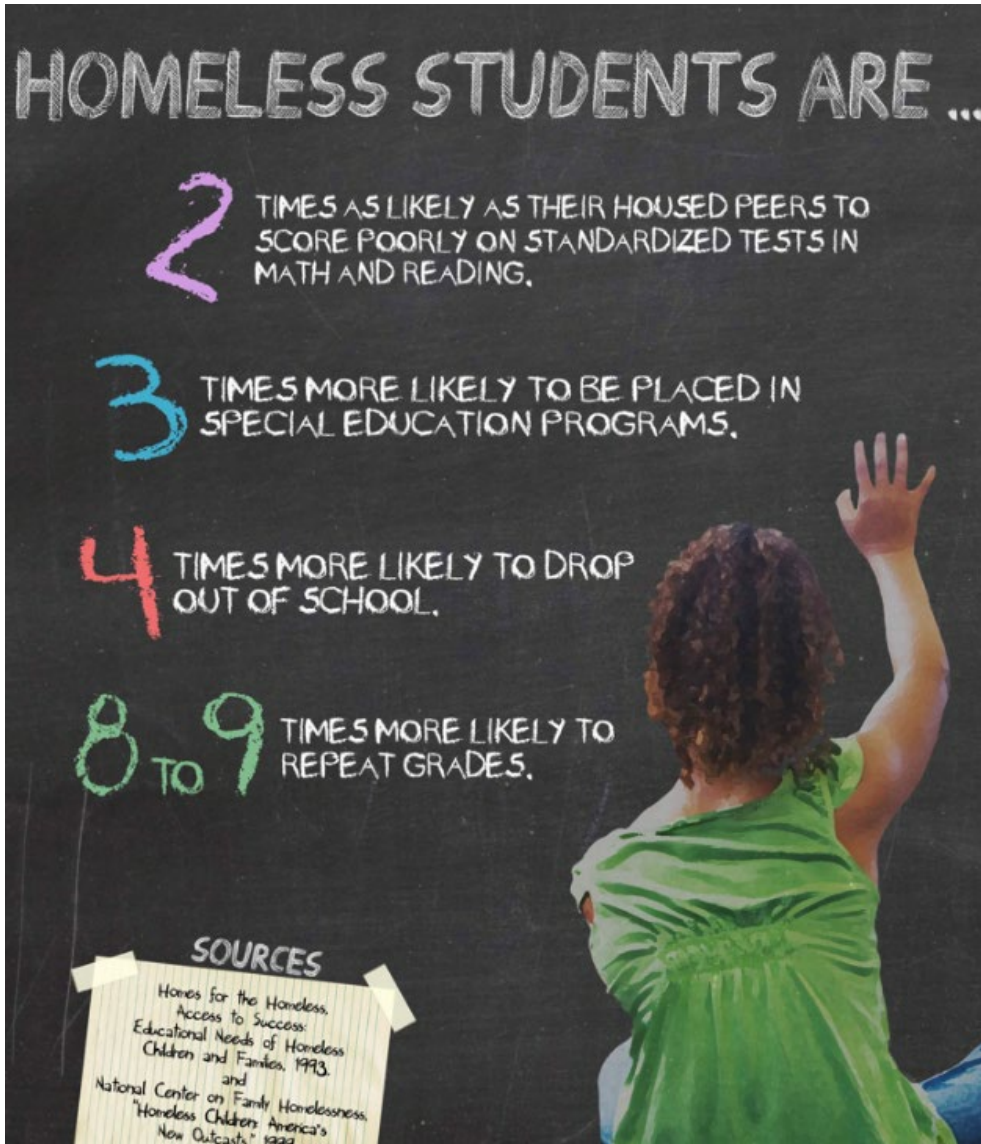
Causes of Homelessness



- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Poverty
 - Under-employment
- Health Problems/Medical Bills
- Domestic Violence
- Natural and Other Disasters
- Abuse/Neglect (unaccompanied youth)



Homelessness Impacts Education



Impacts

- **Standardized Test Scores (math & reading)**
- **SPED Needs**
- **School Drop Out**
- **Grade Retention**

Homelessness Creates Barriers



Students experiencing homelessness may

- Not be able to meet enrollment requirements/documents
- Lack stability with frequent moves
- Experience hunger, fatigue, and stress
- Not have school supplies or a quiet place to study
- Not have access to reliable transportation
- Not have a parent or guardian to help them (unaccompanied youth).



National Statistics on Homelessness



1 in 30

adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endures some form of homelessness in a year. A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.



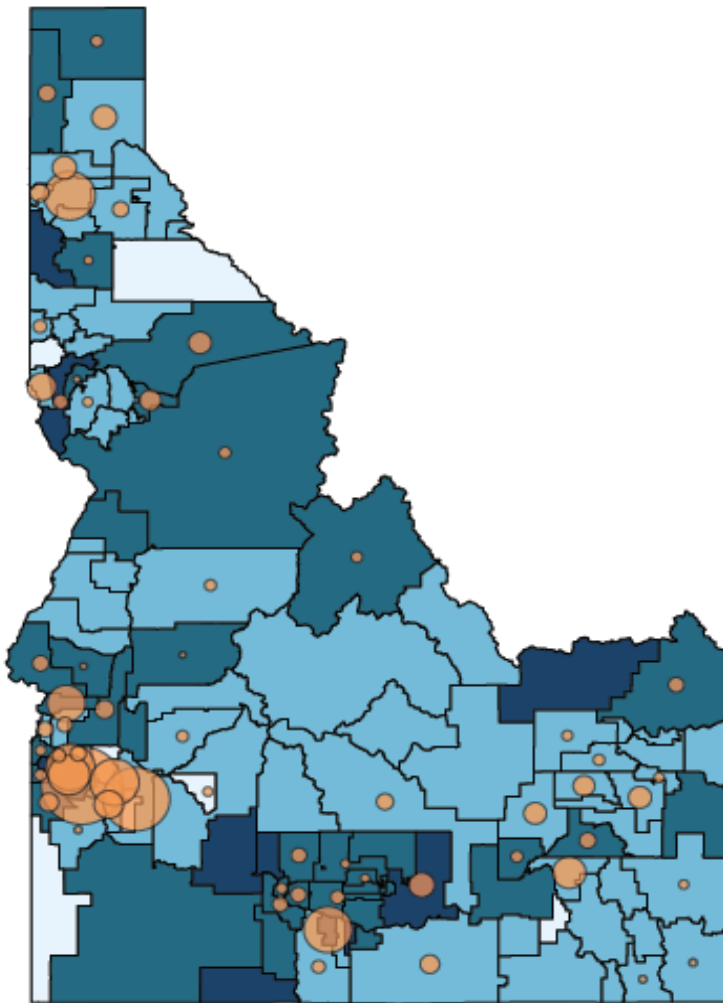
346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk of homelessness

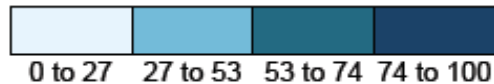


Idaho Student Data

- 318,979 students as of 6/2023 (non-weighted/duplicated)
- 9,144 students identified as homeless SY22-23
- 3% students identified homeless
- 39% state low income rate (lunch eligibility data)



Percent enrolled students in poverty (FRPL)



Number of HCY Enrolled



National trend is 10% of students who qualify for free/reduced lunch may be experiencing homelessness.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Act

42 U.S.C. § 11431

A federal law that addresses educational **barriers** and **challenges** created by homelessness by guaranteeing these students the right to:

- FAPE – free appropriate public education
- Immediate *enrollment in school – without traditional documents
*enrollment defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities”
- Transportation to school of origin, if requested
- Educational supports/services needed for school success
- SPED services/supports, if eligible for SPED

Goals of the McKinney-Vento Act



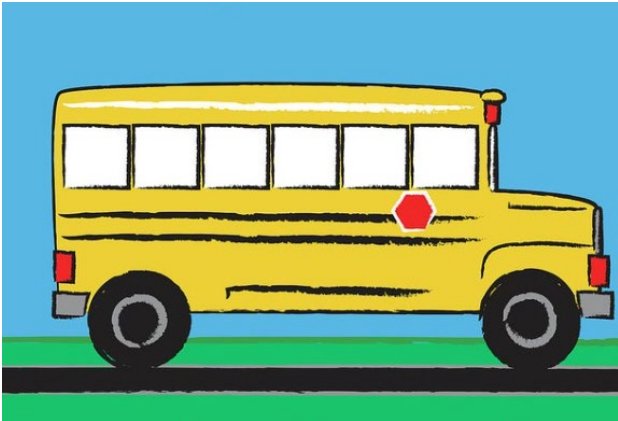
Improve: Enrollment Retention, Successful High School Completion

Remove Barriers: Attendance, Credit Accrual, Extra-Curricular Participation

Support Transitions: Pre-K School and School-College/Career



McKinney-Vento: More Than Free Lunch...



**Free
Lunch**



Definition of “Homeless Children and Youth”



Individuals who lack a nighttime residence that is:

- **Fixed** - Stationary, permanent, not subject to change
- **Regular** - Predictable, routine, consistent
- **Adequate** - Lawfully and reasonably sufficient



Includes Living Situations



- Sharing the housing of other persons (doubled-up) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters

[42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)]



Living Situations - continued



- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings

[42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)]

Special Situations



- **Migratory Children** living in these circumstances (doubled-up, motel, car, shelters, etc.)
- **Unaccompanied Youth** – any youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian **AND** living situation qualifies as homeless

[42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)]



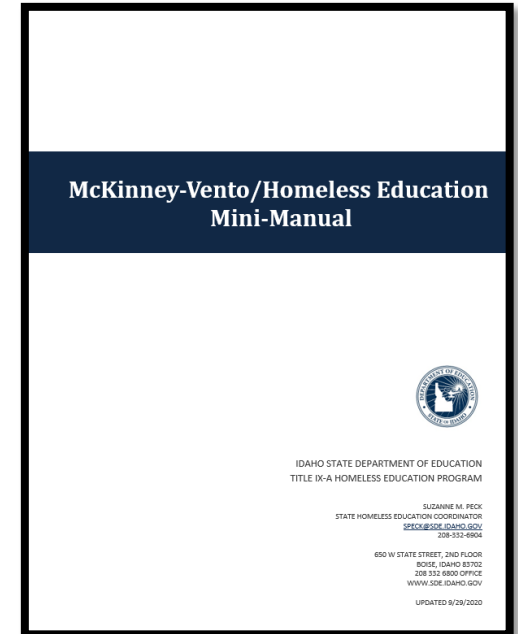
MV/Homeless Education – Basic Program



- All public school districts (*regardless of receiving federal program funding or not*) need to meet the basic educational requirements of the McKinney Vento Act - reauthorized through ESSA, Title IX-A Section

Districts must ensure that:

- MV Liaison is named
- Students are identified
- Rights are met
- Services are provided & barriers are removed
- Student success & well-being is monitored
- Data is reported



<https://sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/homeless/>



Funding Supports for MV Programs

Basic MV/Homeless Program

Title IA Homeless Set-Aside

- Districts receiving Title IA \$ can set-aside an adequate amount to meet the needs of students
- Determine amount based on needs assessment or other means

Other State or Federal Funds

- General Funds
- Title IV

Local Supports & Referrals

- State Agencies
- Non-profits
- Faith-based groups
- Grants

ARP-HCY Funds

\$2,800,000

Spend by 9/30/2024

Education for Homeless Children & Youth Grant Subgrant

Competitive Grant

Sy2023-2026
- 3 year cycle

\$436,479

29 districts
\$3,000-\$38,000/year for 3 years

Homeless Liaison Responsibilities



1. Identify Students
2. Enroll Students
3. Ensure Access to Community Partners
4. Refer for Services
5. Inform Parents/UAY of Rights
6. Ensure Public Awareness
7. Mediate Disputes
8. Inform Parents/UAY of Services
9. Continue Professional Development
10. Support Unaccompanied Youth



Responsibility to Identify



Local liaison has the authority and responsibility to ensure that eligible students are identified.

- **Collaborative Effort**

- School personnel – All staff who interface with students/families are trained, aware of signs of homelessness, and referral process
- Outreach/coordination activities for self-identification

Step 1 – Identification/Outreach Measures



- Housing Survey
- Enrollment Staff Referral
- Teacher/Staff Referral
- Self-Referral/Community Awareness Free parent packets and posters available at <https://nchehelpline.org/pages/free-orders>.
- Other Types of Mid-year Outreach - During parent-teacher conferences

Step 2 - Verify Eligibility & Determine Needs



- Conduct follow-up evaluation to determine eligibility
Sample form: [McKinney-Vento Eligibility Evaluation Form](#)
- Determine & arrange supports needed (transportation, food, enrollment documents, referrals, etc.)

MV Evaluation/Eligibility Determination Form

Student Name (Please Print) _____
School _____

This form will be completed by District Liaison to evaluate a student's eligibility under the McKinney-Vento Act.

A **fixed residence** is one that is **stationary, permanent, and not subject to change**

1. Is this a temporary living arrangement? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Did you and your friends/relatives decide to move in together and share a home and expenses for the long term?
☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Where would you go if something happened between you as adults?

4. How long do you expect to be at this address?

A **regular residence** is one that is used on a **regular (i.e. nightly) basis**

1. Do you stay in the same place every night? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Do you move around a lot? ☐ Yes ☐ No

An **adequate residence** is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

1. Are you safe where you are staying?

2. Do you have adequate space for your belongings?

3. Do you share a room/bed with your children?

4. Are your children safe if you are not home?

Step 3 - Notify



Written notification, rights & services to parents or Unaccompanied Homeless Youth.

Sample form:

[Written-Notification-of-Eligibility](#)



The form is titled "McKinney-Vento Eligibility Notification" and features the Idaho Department of Education seal. It includes a disclaimer stating it is only valid for the current school year and is for students moving districts. The form contains several fields for student information, a section for identifying the primary nighttime residence with four checkbox options, a section for identifying the student with two checkbox options, and fields for school district, district liaison, phone, email, signature, and date. A final instruction at the bottom states that after completion, a copy should be placed in the student's file and emailed to the district liaison in the new district.

McKinney-Vento Eligibility Notification

THIS FORM IS ONLY VALID FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR. This form is to be used when a student identified under McKinney-Vento (MV) moves from one district to another within the same school year. The purpose of this form is to notify the district/school liaison in the new district of the student's eligibility under MV so that there is no break in service during the school year.

_____ was identified and determined eligible for
(name of student)

McKinney-Vento Services by the district identified below _____

with a primary nighttime residence of:

☐ Shelter or transitional housing

☐ Doubled-up

☐ Unsheltered (car, camp trailer w/ no utilities, public space, substandard/inadequate housing)

☐ Hotel or motel

This student:

☐ lives with parent/guardian

☐ is an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

This student will remain eligible for services for the remainder of the 20__ - 20__ school year. Eligibility will need to be re-assessed at the beginning of the next school year.

School district _____

District Liaison _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(After this form is completed and signed, put a copy in the student's file AND email the form to the district/school liaison in the new district.)

Step 4 – Coding & Data Collection



- Students coded in SMS (Student Mgt. System) to be included in the ISEE uploads
 - MV + Living Situation + UHY
- MV student list to Child Nutrition Dept.
(Direct Certification/Categorical Eligibility)
- Tracking services

Families Experiencing Homelessness



- What challenges do you encounter with families experiencing homelessness?
- What can you do to facilitate identification among parents and students?

Improving the MV Program



Quality of Housing Survey

- Describe living situations that qualify for MV
- Explain the services/supports available through MV
- Convey confidentiality

Family and School Relationships

Much of identification is dependent on families to accurately complete the housing survey.

- Are we cultivating relationships with parents and students to have those difficult conversations around homelessness?

Community Outreach

- Do you have community resources for food, clothing, and shelters/temporary housing?
- Do you have a cross referral system in place to increase identification?

More Than Just School



A place where...

- needs are met
- access to warm meals, clothing, school supplies
- adults who cared enough to see more in them than the students saw in themselves



It Only Takes One...



- The football coach who created a safe, uplifting environment.
- The science teacher who offered a student a room in their own home.
- The guidance counselor who helped make the dream of college a reality.



To Do List...





Emily Sommer | Coordinator
Title IX-A Homeless Education
Title I-D Neglected, Delinquent & At-Risk

Idaho State Department of Education
650 W State Street, Boise, ID 83702
208-332-6904
esommer@sde.idaho.gov
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/homeless/index.html>

