



Idaho Department
of Education

McKinney-Vento 101

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Learning Curve



Importance of Addressing Student Homelessness



Insight into Homelessness

- What was interesting as you discussed how homelessness impacts education?
- What supports or services become essential towards educational success?



Homelessness Creates Barriers to Education

Lack enrollment documents

Lack stability with frequent moves

Experience hunger, fatigue, and stress

Lack school supplies or resources to participate in school activities

Lack access to reliable transportation

Lack a parent or guardian to help them (unaccompanied youth)

Homeless students are...



2 times as likely to score poorly on standardized math and reading tests

3 times more likely to be placed in SPED program.

8-9 times more likely to repeat a grade.



Homelessness is associated with **87%** increased likelihood of dropping out of school

Impact on Educational Outcomes

Lower graduation rate

Higher rates of chronic absenteeism

Increased likelihood of disciplinary issues

Challenges in accessing courses/extracurricular activities



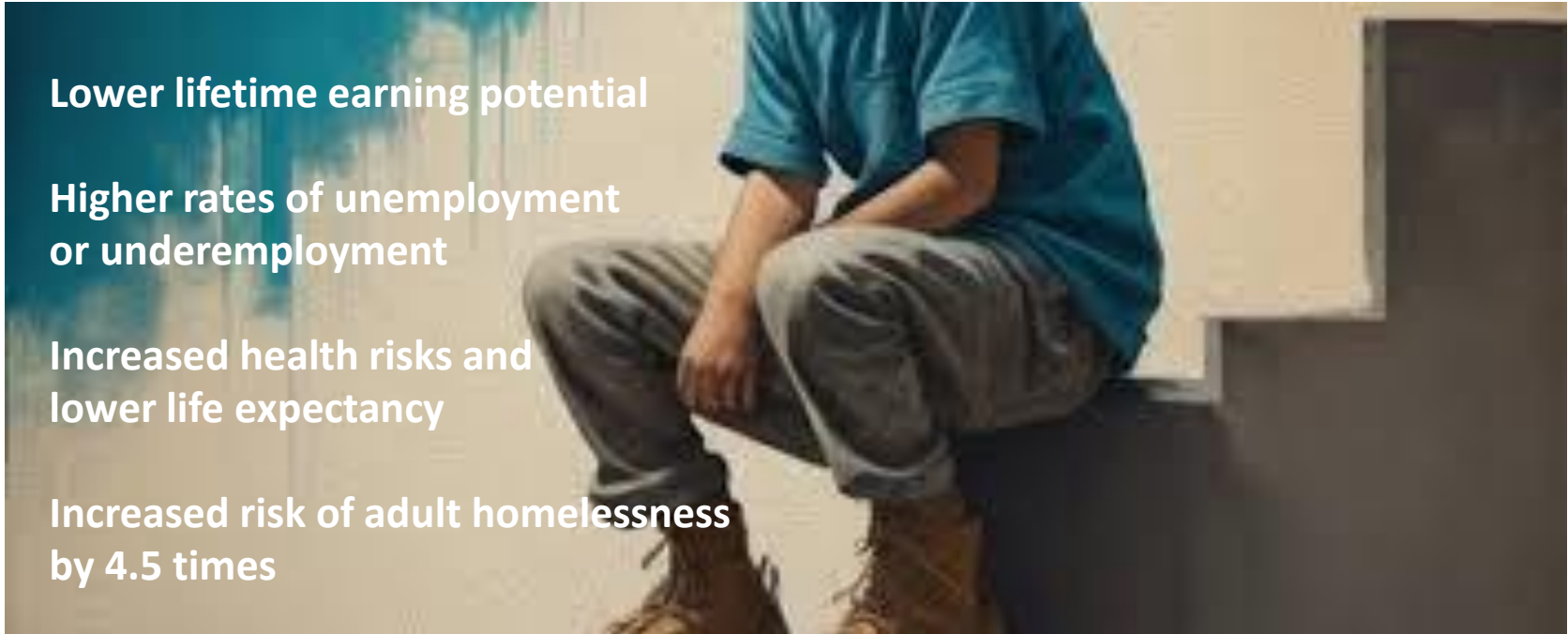
Long-term Consequences of Educational Disruption

Lower lifetime earning potential

Higher rates of unemployment or underemployment

Increased health risks and lower life expectancy

Increased risk of adult homelessness by 4.5 times



Educational Rights for McKinney-Vento Students

42 U.S.C. § 11431

A federal law that addresses the **challenges** and **barriers** faced by homeless children and youth by providing...

- Right to immediate *enrollment in school without traditionally required documents
- Right to remain in their school of origin if it is student's best interest
- Right to transportation to and from school of origin, if requested

*enrollment defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities”

McKinney-Vento Eligibility

Children and youth who lack a nighttime residence that is...



Fixed - Stationary, permanent, not subject to change

Regular - Predictable, routine, consistent

Adequate - Lawfully and reasonably sufficient

Eligibility lasts for the entire school year, even if circumstances have changed

Qualifying Living Situations

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)

- Doubled-up/shared housing **due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason**
- Living in motels/hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds **due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations (choice vs. necessity)**
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters



More Living Situations



- Living in public/private places not designed for human sleeping accommodations
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, or substandard housing, bus or train stations

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



Responsibility of School Districts & Charters

McKinney-Vento liaison

Every LEA must have a designated liaison who is **able** to carry out the responsibilities to **coordinate services** to **ensure children** and youth experiencing homelessness are **enrolled** in school and have the opportunity to **succeed academically**.



McKinney-Vento Liaison Responsibilities



- Identify students (determine eligibility and assess needs)
- Enroll students
- Ensure students have access and receive educational support
- Refer for services (counseling, medical, dental, housing, etc.)
- Inform parents, guardian/UHY of MV rights/services and are provided meaningful opportunities to engage in child's education

Liaison Responsibilities

- Distribute public notice of MV rights
- Participate in state-offered professional development
- Provide school staff training on MV
- Ensure UHY are informed and receive verification of independent status for FAFSA
- Monitor student success & well-being
- Report data



RIGHTS

OF STUDENT EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Identified Students have the right to:

- Immediate Enrollment—even without all the typical paperwork
- Attend their School of Origin
- Transportation to and from their school of origin
- Comparable Services including free school meals, transportation gifted/talented programs, career and technical education and Title I.
- Access to Services for Which They are Eligible including special education, Head Start and early intervention programs.
- Barrier Removal to ensure full access and participation in school sponsored programs and activities
- Dispute Resolution if the family, guardian, or unaccompanied youth chooses to dispute a district decision about identification, enrollment, or school selection
- UHY Protections including enrollment without guardianship documentation
- Appointment of Homeless Liaison who has the time and capacity to identify, support, and advocate for students experiencing homelessness.



www.mckinney-vento.org
getstarted@mckinney-vento.org

Benefits and Services of MV Eligibility



Identify Students Experiencing Homelessness



Common Signs of Homelessness in Students

- Frequent absences/tardiness
- Wearing same clothes repeatedly
- Fatigue in class
- Hoarding food
- Lack of participation in after school activities
- High mobility in school enrollment

Strategies for Identification

- Train school staff (bus drivers, teachers, coaches, nurse, lunch staff, etc.)
- Establish clear reporting process
- Collaborate with community organizations
- Design sensitive, non-stigmatizing outreach material
- Provide MV resources in multiple languages
- Maintain confidentiality and sensitivity

Free posters available

<https://nchehelpline.org/pages/free-orders>

<https://training.mckinney-vento.org/student-rights-posters/>

Promoting Student Success

- Monitor student progress
- Implement alert system when student is falling behind
- Provide remediation and tutoring
- Provide full/partial credit for coursework completion from previous school
- Meet with students to discuss college/career plans



2023-24 MV Student Graduates



696
Graduates

Let's Clarify...



School of Origin: The school the student attended when permanently housed or school at which the student was last enrolled. Sometimes the student has more than one school of origin (e.g. online school and local school).

Best Interest: LEAs shall presume keeping the student in school of origin is best interest, except when contrary to the request of parent, guardian, or UHY. LEAs must provide written explanation if best interest is not school of origin or parent, guardian, UHY choice.

Enrollment: Children must be enrolled immediately, even if required documents are not available. Enrolled means attending classes and participating in school activities.



More Clarification

District Policies vs Federal Law:

Federal law supersedes district policy. SEAs and LEAs must develop, review and revise district policies to remove barriers to identification, enrollment, and retention of MV students (e.g. fees, fines, and absences).

False Information Enrollment:

If a student is enrolled based on false information, the student does not have a right to continue attending the school and must attend the school of origin or local area attending school. Residency form or liaison can explain the seriousness of falsifying information to benefit from a federal program to encourage accurate information.

And More...



Transportation: Transportation to school of origin is a MV right. If student has moved outside of district and attends school of origin, the cc transportation is shared between school of origin and local district. If both LEAs cannot agree to a shared amount, the cost is split 50/50.

Eligibility Limits: No eligibility limits for MV students. MV eligibility lasts for the entire academic year, even if they become permanently housed in the identified year. Must be redetermined each school year.

Trailers/Campers: Living in a trailer park or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations is eligible for MV, but not all campers/trailers qualify for MV. If it is not fixed, regular or adequate (substandard) then it would qualify.

How Many Homeless Students in Idaho?

SY 2023-24

9,125 Homeless Students

7,346 Doubled up

860 Hotel/Motel

833 Unsheltered

498 Shelter



Poverty Rate and Homelessness 2023-24

Statewide Low-income/Poverty rate = 39%

State Enrollment Total = 318,660

39% of Total Students in Poverty = 124,277

Research shows 10% of students in poverty are experiencing homeless

10% of 124,277 = **12,427 homeless students**

2023-24 MV Identified = 9,125

Funds to Support McKinney-Vento Students



- General Funds
- Title I-A Homeless Set Aside
- McKinney-Vento Subgrant – 3 year competitive grant 2023-2026
- ARP-HCY Grants (HI and HII) – 3 year formula grant 2021-2024
- Community Donations

Allowable Use of Funds – Title I-A Homeless Set Aside

Governing Principles

- Reasonable and necessary for educational opportunity
- Last resort - not reasonably available elsewhere

EXAMPLES

- Tutoring/educational support programs
- Transportation
- Liaison salary
- Counseling
- Clothing, shoes for school participation
- Medical/dental services
- Emergency needs

Allowable Use of Funds – MV Subgrant

Assist in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school

- Tutoring, supplemental instruction
- Expedited evaluations for programs/services (e.g. Gifted & talented, SPED, EL)
- Professional development for educators/supports staff to increase understanding of homeless children and youth
- Referral services (medical, dental, mental, etc.)

Allowable Use of Funds – MV Subgrant (2)

- Defray excess cost of transportation
- Early childhood education programs for preschool age homeless kids
- Services/assistance to attract, engage and retain homeless students in school programs
- Before and after school mentoring or summer programming

Allowable Use of Funds – MV Subgrant (3)

- Costs associated with school records (birth cert, immunizations, academic records, etc.)
- Education and training for parent/guardians to rights and resources of McKinney-Vento
- Develop coordination between schools and agencies
- Specialized instructional support services/referrals

Allowable Use of Funds – MV Subgrant (4)

- Activities to address domestic violence and parent mental health or substance abuse
- Adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for non-school facilities
- School supplies
- Extraordinary or emergency assistance to enable attendance, and participation
- +Any allowable activity for ARP-HCY funds EXCEPT hotels stay

Allowable Use of Funds – ARP-HCY

Supplement ECHY program

- Any expenses that are reasonable and necessary to facility the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of MV students
- Summer learning and enrichment programs
- Provide wraparound services (i.e. academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support and mental health services)
- Purchase needed supplies (i.e. PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, hygiene items, etc.)
- Provide transportation to attend classes and participate fully in school activities.

Allowable Use of Funds – ARP-HCY (2)

- Purchase cell phones or other technological devices to improve communication & allow full participation in school activities
 - Pay for short-term, temporary housing (i.e. a few days in a motel)
 - Provide store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for student to participate in school activities
 - Increase liaison and McKinney-Vento program capacity
- + Any allowable activity under EHCY

Important Dates

ARP-HCY Funds

Obligation deadline 9/30/24

Drawn down deadline 1/18/25

MV SUBGRANT

FY 2022-23

Expires 9/30/24

FY 2023-24

Expires 9/30/26

FY 2024-25

Expires 9/30/27



Resources

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

- **MV Liaison Contact List**
- **Data**
- **Monitoring Resources**

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/tools-resources/qa-from-the-field>

- **Q&A**
- **Resource Links**

<https://nche.ed.gov/>

- **Best Practice Briefs by Topic**
- **Liaison Toolkit**
- **Free Posters**

Mentimeter

www.menti.com

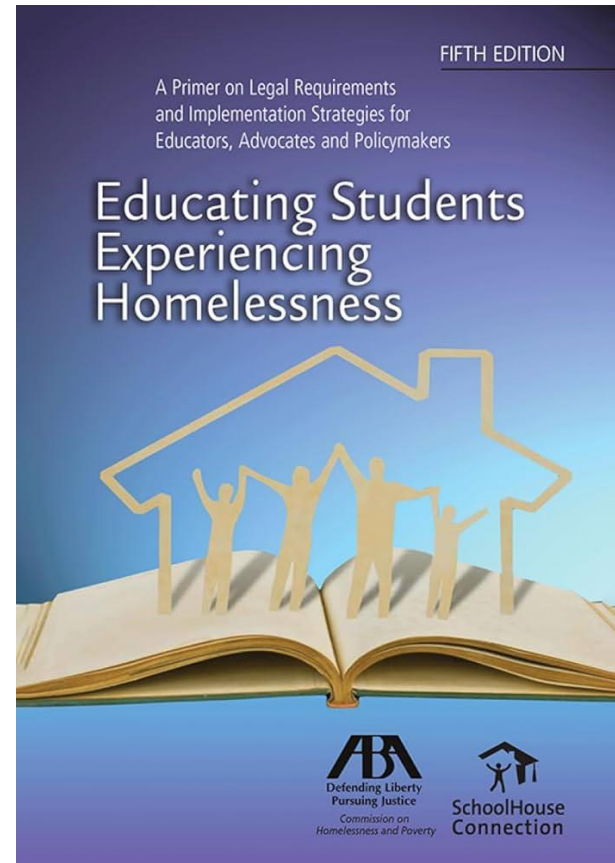
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New initiatives



- New Liaison Learning Group
- Liaison Book Study Group





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Questions...

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