

McKinney-Vento 101: An Overview of Homeless Education Under ESSA

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McKinney-Vento Act, EHCY

- Reauthorizes the Stewart B. McKinney Act, originally enacted in 1987
- Provides states with funding to support local grants and statewide initiatives
- Requires educational *access*, *attendance*, and *success* for homeless children and youth




Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Mental Illness
- Affordable Housing
- Economic crises
- Inconsistent and inadequate health care or nutrition
- Adolescent mothers
- Disrupted or limited family support
- LGBTQ+

WHO IS HOMELESS?

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act – ESSA, Title IX, Part A
- Same definition referenced in
 - IDEA 2004
 - Child Nutrition Act
 - Head Start Act
 - Higher Education Act
 - Child Care Development Block Grant



**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program**

Title IX, Part A
Every Student Succeeds Act

Defining homelessness

An individual who lacks a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence, including children and youth:

- **sharing housing** due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- living in **motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds** due to lack of alternative adequate housing
- living in emergency or **transitional housing**

Including children and youth :

- abandoned in hospitals
- ~~awaiting foster care~~
- having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations



Homeless or NOT Homeless

| | Homeless | NOT Homeless |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| In a shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| In a motel after an eviction | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Living with grandparents to save money for a house down payment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| In a motel while house is renovated | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Living with aunt following a foreclosure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| In an overcrowded trailer with 6 children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- **migratory students** meeting the description
- **unaccompanied youth** meeting the description



How eligibility is determined by a liaison:
http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf

Warning Signs of Homelessness

- Lack of continuity in education
- Poor health/nutrition
- Transportation and attendance problems
- Poor hygiene
- Lack of privacy/personal space after school
- Social and behavioral concerns
- Reactions/statements by parent, guardian, or child

Fixed, Regular, and Adequate



- **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)?

Tips for discussing



- Residency questionnaire – self-disclosed
- Avoid using “homeless”
- Focus on temporary nature of housing or being in transition

Children Experiencing Homelessness

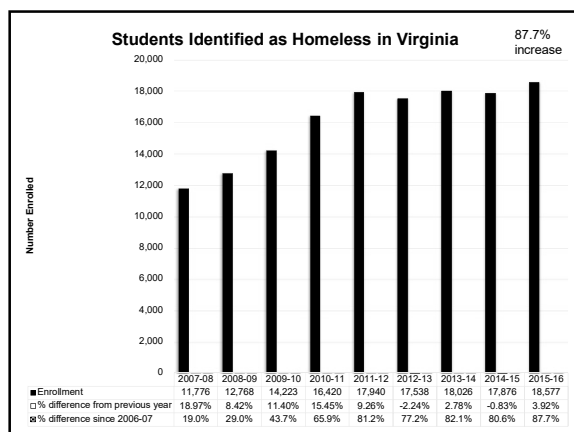
- Estimated one in 30 children (NCFH, 2014)
- 1.26 million in SY 2014-2015 (USED, 2016)
- Families with young children are the fastest growing subgroup



The child's classroom may be the only place where the child can experience quiet, interact with children his/her age, and experience success...

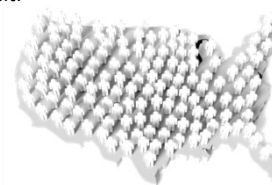
*School is the most **normal** activity that most children experience collectively...For homeless children it is much more than a learning environment. It is a place of safety, personal space, friendships, and support.*

Oakley & King, 2000

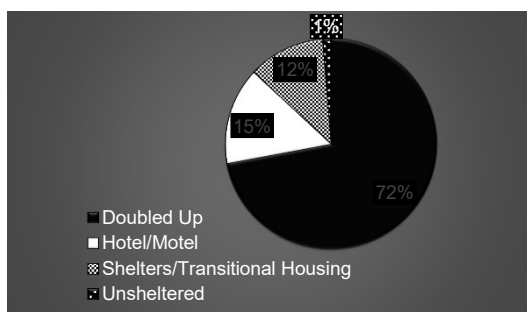


McKinney-Vento EHCY Requirements

- Appoint a local homeless education liaison in every school division
- For Virginia liaisons, visit: www.wm.edu/hope



Virginia 2015-16 Initial Primary Nighttime Residence



McKinney-Vento Local Liaisons

- Every LEA must designate a McKinney-Vento liaison able to carry out his/her legal duties. 11432(g)(6)
- Liaisons must ensure that—
 - McKinney-Vento students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.
 - Children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination with other entities and agencies.
 - Public notice of MV rights is disseminated in locations frequented by parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth, in a manner and form understandable to them.

McKinney-Vento Liaisons (cont.)

- Liaisons must ensure that (cont.)—
 - Children, youth and families have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, early intervention (IDEA Part C) and other preschool programs.
 - http://veipd.org/main/sub_2014_talks_tuesdays.html scroll down to "Casting a Wide Net"
 - Children, youth and families receive referrals to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing and other services.

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EHCY Requirements



- Enroll students *immediately* in local school OR
- Maintain student enrollment in the *school of origin* when feasible and in the student's best interest
 - Includes transportation
 - Even across school division lines

Find and identify students, get them enrolled, and keep them enrolled!

McKinney-Vento Liaisons (cont.)

- Liaisons must ensure that (cont.)—
 - Disputes are resolved and assistance to access transportation is provided.
 - Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school and that procedures are implemented to identify and remove barriers that prevent them from **receiving credit for full or partial coursework** satisfactorily completed at a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies.

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School Stability

- Applies when students lose housing during the year or during the summer. 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(I)
- School of origin:
 - School attended when permanently housed or school in which last enrolled, including a preschool.
 - The designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder school patterns, when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

11432(g)(3)(I)

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McKinney-Vento Liaisons Must

- Participate in professional development and technical assistance as determined appropriate by the State Coordinator.
- Ensure school personnel providing MV services receive professional development and other support.



School Stability (cont.)

In determining best interest, the LEA shall:

- 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 the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety.
- Give priority to the parent's/guardian's request.
- Give priority to the youth's request (in the case of an unaccompanied youth).

11432(g)(3)(B)(i)-(ii)

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Enrollment in Preschool

- State McKinney-Vento plans must describe procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs administered by the SEA or LEAs.

11432(g)(1)(F)(i)

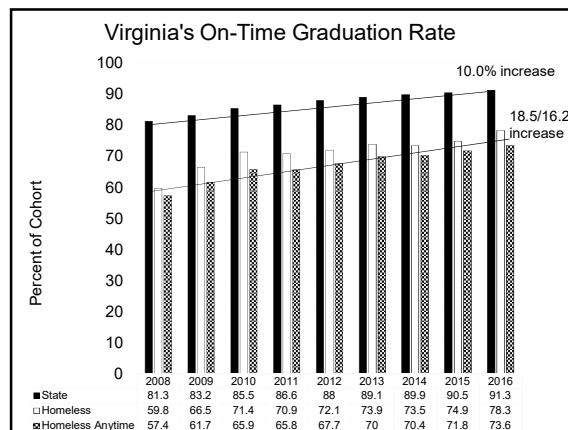
- Preschools are included in the school of origin definition.

11432(g)(3)(I)

- Liaisons must ensure access to Head Start, early intervention (IDEA Part C), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA.

11432(g)(6)(A)(iii)

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School Stability (cont.)

If the LEA determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian or youth, the LEA must provide a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal.

11432(g)(3)(B)(iii)

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Helpful Websites

- Project HOPE-VA – www.wm.edu/hope
- NCHE – http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/educ_mobile.php
- NAEH CY – www.naehcy.org
- SchoolHouse Connection – www.schoolhouseconnection.org

Dispute Resolution

- Eligibility
- School Selection or Enrollment
- See Supt. Memo #215-17
- Templates for forms:
 - <http://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/liaison/disputeforms/index.php>
- VAFEPA session
 - Tuesday, 10:45 – 12:00

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