

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Updates and Promising Practices

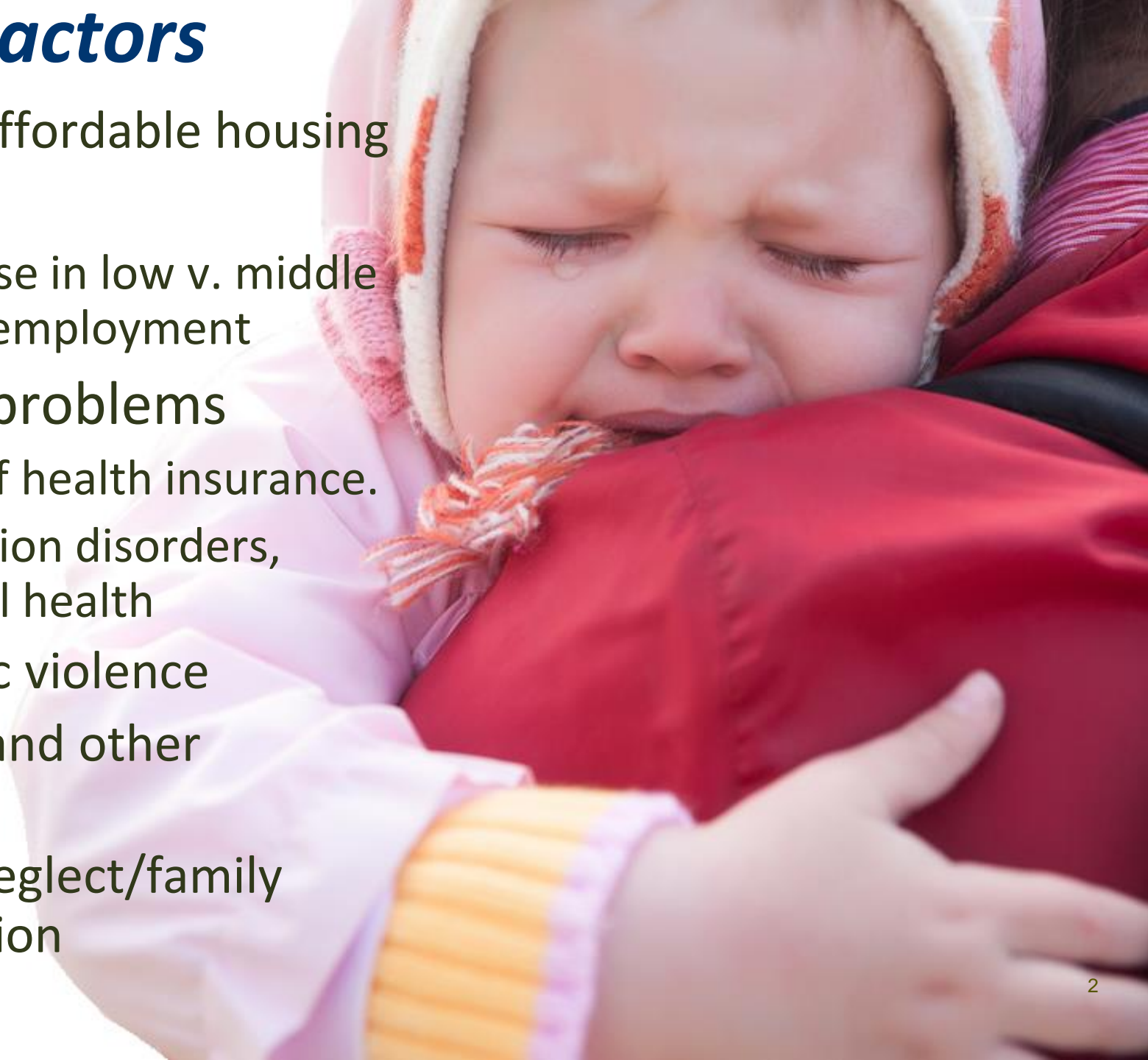
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Fall, 2018

Risk Factors

- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty
 - Increase in low v. middle wage employment
- Health problems
 - Lack of health insurance.
 - Addiction disorders, mental health
- Domestic violence
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse/neglect/family dysfunction
- LGBTQ+



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

Title IX, Part A
Every Student Succeeds Act
Effective October 1, 2016

See Webinar online:

<http://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/professionaldev/ESSATransition/index.php>

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- Reauthorizes the Stewart B. McKinney Act, originally enacted in 1987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
- ESSA authorization: \$85 million for entire country
- Virginia 2018-19 allocation: \$1,388,674

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



Defining homelessness

An individual who lacks a *fixed, regular, and adequate* nighttime residence, including children and youth: [11434a(2)]

- *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~~ (12-10-16)
- having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations



- 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:

https://nche.ed.gov/ibt/sc_eligibility.php







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)?



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"/>



Tips for identification

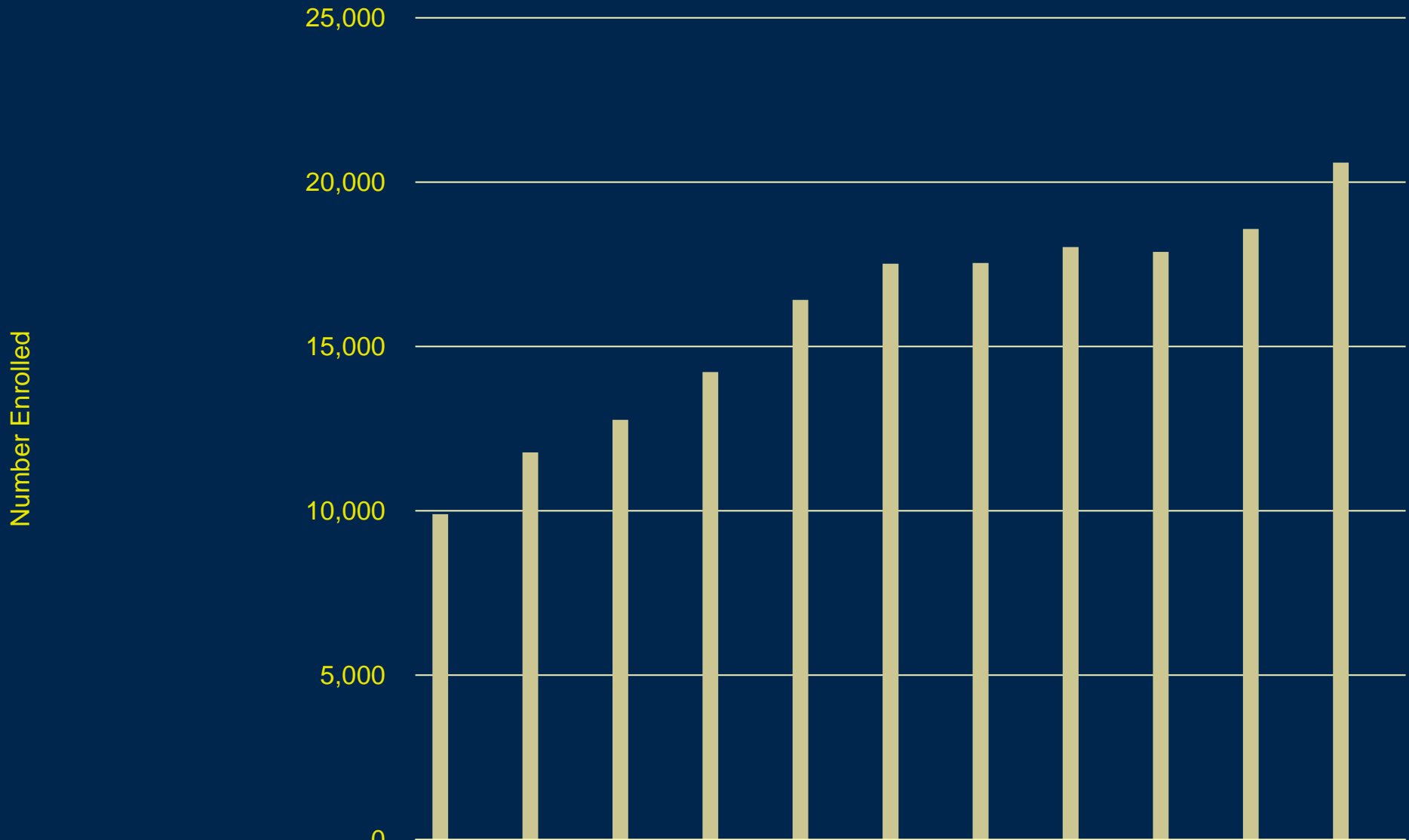
- Avoid using “homeless”
- Focus on temporary nature of housing or being in transition
- Community outreach

Children Experiencing Homelessness

- One in 30 children (NCFH, 2014)
- 1.30 million in SY 2015-2016 (USED, 2017)
- *Families with young children are the fastest growing subgroup*

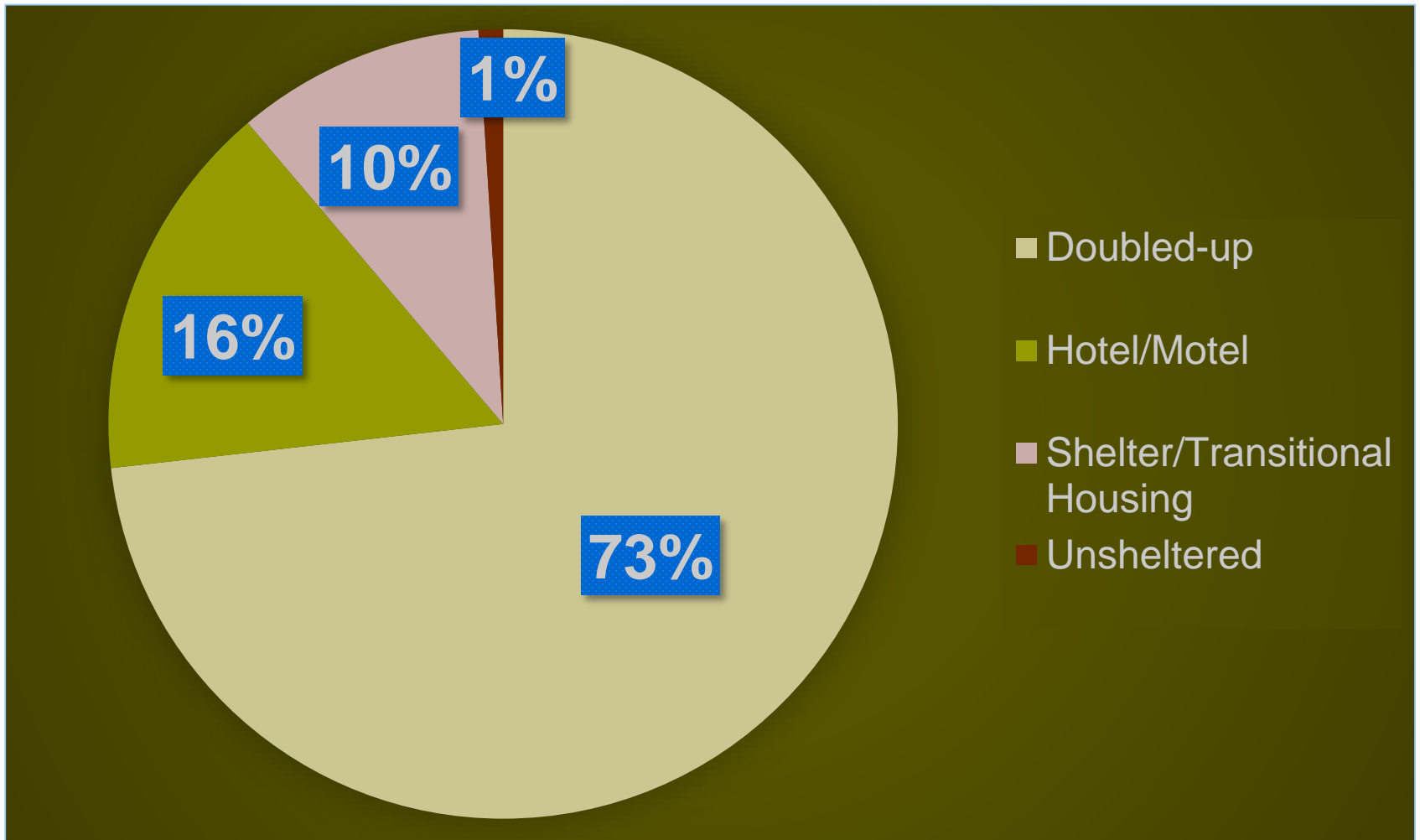


Students Identified as Homeless in Virginia



	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
■ Enrollment	9,898	11,776	12,768	14,223	16,420	17,518	17,538	18,026	17,876	18,577	20,593
■ % difference from previous year	0.00%	18.97%	8.42%	11.40%	15.45%	6.69%	0.11%	2.78%	-0.83%	3.92%	10.85%
■ % difference since 2006-07	0.0%	19.0%	29.0%	43.7%	65.9%	77.0%	77.2%	82.1%	80.6%	87.7%	108.1%

Virginia 2016-17 Initial Primary Nighttime Residence





Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Nationally, more than half of all sheltered children were under age 6
- Virginia, 45% of children in homeless shelters under age of five. (3470 of 5552 in 2010 – data no longer reported)
- 2015-16 – VDHCD child care served 70 under age 5
- Virginia 2016-17
 - 529 enrolled 3-5 not Kindergarten
 - Subgrants served 805 birth-preK

State Coordinator

- Coordination/collaboration
- State Plan
- Capacity
- TA and training
- Post
 - liaisons
 - counts
 - Title I, Part A – achievement and OTGR

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.

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.

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.



Are Your Numbers Reasonable?

- SAIPE – 5-17 year olds in poverty
- Free meals



Consider

- Residency questionnaire
- Training staff
- Coordination with other agencies
- FERPA – housing status is not directory information for students experiencing homelessness

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

EHCY Requirements



- Maintain student enrollment in the *school of origin* when feasible and in the student's best interest

- Includes transportation
- Even across school division lines

OR

- Enroll students *immediately* in local school

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

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)

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)

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)

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)

School Enrollment

When remaining in the school of origin is not in the student's best interest or what the parent, guardian or youth requests: 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)

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:

- Students do not have required documents, such as school records, **records of immunization and other required health records**, proof of residency, guardianship, or other documents; or
- **Students have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.**

Enrollment (cont.)

- The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities. 11434a(1)
- SEAs and LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the **identification**, enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations, **including barriers due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.** 11432(g)(1)(I)

Enrollment of Unaccompanied Youth

- Immediate enrollment applies, even without parent or guardian. 11432(g)(1)(H)(iv)
 - Youth self-enrollment; Caregiver forms
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, **give priority to the youth's wishes**, and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights. 11432(G)(3)(B)(iv)
- School personnel (administrators, teachers, attendance officers, enrollment personnel) must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth. 11432(g)(1)(D)

Ensuring Access to Educational Services

- Free breakfast & lunch programs
- Title I
- Special education
- Gifted programs
- Transportation
- After school and summer programs
- Head Start, VPI, ECSE, EI

Transportation – Key Provisions

1. LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school of origin, **including until the end of the year when the student obtains permanent housing**, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth).
 - If staying in the same LEA, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation to the school of origin.
 - If crossing LEA lines, both LEAs must determine how to divide the responsibility and share the cost, or they must share the cost equally.

Transportation (continued)

2. LEAs also must provide students in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students. 11432(g)(4)(A)
3. LEAs must eliminate barriers to the **identification**, enrollment and retention of students experiencing homelessness (including transportation barriers). 11432(g)(1)(I)

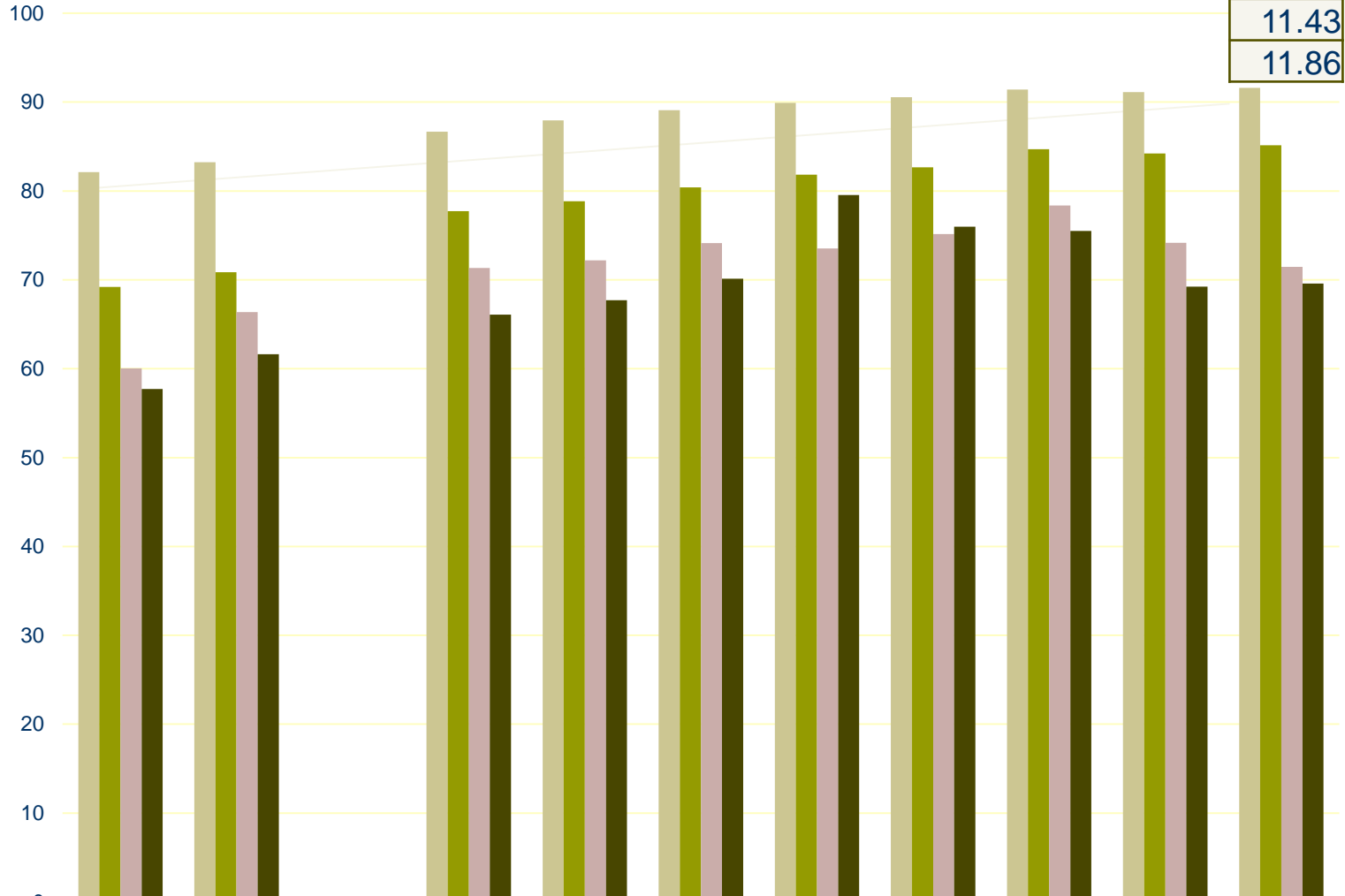
Support for Academic Success: Participation and Credit Accrual

- States must have procedures to eliminate barriers to academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, online learning, and charter school programs. 11432(g)(1)(F)(iii)
- States must have procedures to identify and remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies. 11432(g)(1)(F)(ii)
 - Liaisons must implement those procedures. 11432(g)(6)(A)(x)

Support for Academic Success: Transitioning to Higher Education

- All McKinney-Vento youth must be able to receive assistance from counselors to advise such youths, and prepare and improve the readiness of such youths for college. 11432(g)(1)(K)
- Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are informed of their status as independent students and may obtain assistance from the liaison to receive verification of that status.
11432(g)(6)(A)(x)(III)

Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate



Percent of Cohort

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State	82.13	83.25	0	86.67	87.93	89.1	89.92	90.56	91.4	91.13	91.59
Econ Disadv Anytime	69.19	70.87	0	77.74	78.84	80.4	81.84	82.67	84.69	84.21	85.14
Homeless	60.04	66.38	0	71.33	72.2	74.15	73.54	75.14	78.37	74.18	71.47
Homeless Anytime	57.72	61.63	0	66.08	67.71	70.14	79.53	75.99	75.5	69.24	69.58

Support for Academic Success: Coordination with Other Laws/Programs

- LEAs must coordinate McKinney-Vento and special education services within the LEA, and with other involved LEAs. 11432(g)(5)(D)
- Information about a McKinney-Vento student's living situation is a student education record subject to FERPA. 11432(g)(3)(G)
- Local liaisons are authorized to affirm that students meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness, to qualify them for HUD homeless assistance programs. 11432(g)(6)(D)

Support for Success: Title I, Part A

- McKinney-Vento students attending any school in the LEA are automatically eligible for Title I, Part A services. 20 USC 6315(c)(2)(E)
- State report cards must disaggregate achievement and high school graduation data for McKinney-Vento students. 20 USC 6311(h)(1)(C)
- Local plans must: 20 USC 6312(a)(1); (b)(6)
 - Be coordinated with McKinney-Vento programs.
 - Describe the services provided to McKinney-Vento students, including with reserved funds, to support their enrollment, attendance and success.

Title I, Part A: Reservation of Funds

- All LEAs that receive Title I, Part A funds must reserve (set aside) the funds necessary to provide homeless children services comparable to services provided in Title IA schools. 20 USC 6313(c)(3)
 - Amount must be based on the total LEA allocation prior to expenditures or transfers.
 - Amount may be determined based on a needs assessment *and should involve the liaison*.
 - Amount must be sufficient to provide comparable services to homeless students, regardless of other services provided with reserved funds.

Helpful Websites

- NAEHCY –
www.naehcy.org
- NCHE –
<http://nche.ed.gov>
- Project HOPE-VA –
www.wm.edu/hope
- SchoolHouse Connection –
<http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>



Project HOPE-Virginia

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