

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth May 3, 2016



General Housekeeping

- Participants will be placed in listen only mode
- Please use the chat box to let us know if you have a question. We will unmute your line.
- You can also ask questions using the chat box
- Participate in discussions and provide feedback-we want to hear from you!



1. McKinney-Vento Overview with Kristine Nadolski and Susan Piazza
2. Janesville Story with Nancy Mignon, Michelle Wales, Luke McCalmont, Carrie Kulinski, Elizabeth Murphy
3. Important Dates

Today's Agenda



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Kristine Nadolski & Susan Piazza

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Main themes of the McKinney-Vento Act
 - School access
 - School stability
 - Support for academic success
 - Child-centered, best interest decision making
 - Critical role of the local homeless education liaison



Barriers to Education for Children and Youth in Homeless Situations

- **Enrollment requirements** (residency, school records, immunizations, legal guardianship)
- **High mobility** resulting in lack of school stability and education continuity
- Lack of **access** to programs
- Lack of **transportation**
- Lack of **school supplies**, clothing, and other necessities
- **Poor health**, fatigue, hunger
- Prejudice and **misunderstanding**



Homelessness Defined

The term “homeless” children and youth means:

“Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence—**”

What exactly is a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence?



Fixed, Regular, and Adequate

- **Fixed:**
 - Stationary, permanent, not subject to change
- **Regular:**
 - Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis
 - Consider the relative permanence
- **Adequate:**
 - Lawfully and reasonably sufficient
 - Sufficient for meeting the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

Can the student go to the **SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)?**



Eligibility as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- *Awaiting* foster care placement

ESSA: One year after enactment, the phrase “awaiting foster care placement, will be deleted from the definition of homelessness in the McKinney-Vento Act.



Eligibility as defined by the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act

- Living in a public or private place not designed for ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans (cars, parks, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, etc.).
- Children from migrant families who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances.



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth— Key Provisions

- Definition: Youth who meet the definition of homeless AND are *not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian* (e.g. youth living with relatives on an emergency basis, youth living with a friend, runaway, or throwaway youth)
- Regardless of housing status (homeless vs. permanently housed), liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school.
- School personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth



Homeless Liaison Responsibilities

Every LEA must designate a liaison for students experiencing homelessness to:

- ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified,
- ensure that students experiencing homelessness are IMMEDIATELY enrolled in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school, and
- link students experiencing homelessness with educational services; including preschool and health services.



Homeless Liaisons Responsibilities



- Inform parents, guardians, or unaccompanied youth of educational and parent involvement opportunities
- Post public notice of McKinney-Vento educational rights
- Ensure that disputes are resolved promptly
- Inform parents, guardians, or unaccompanied youth of transportation services, including to the school of origin



Enrollment and Access to Services

Schools shall immediately enroll the child or youth even if:

- they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment
- **ESSA: they have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness**

Students must have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including special education, Title I, programs for English language learners, gifted and talented programs, vocational and technical education, and school nutrition.



Other Services and Supports

In addition to access to educational programs, homeless students are eligible for additional services and supports, including:

- School supplies
- Fee waivers
- Tutoring programs
- Before/after school programs
- Referral to community and social services
- Transportation to/from the school of origin
- Title I, Part A services and supports



Identification Strategies

- Provide awareness activities for school staff (registrars, secretaries, counselors, social workers, nurses, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, etc.).
- Coordinate with community service agencies, such as shelters, meal programs, drop-in centers, public assistance and housing agencies, and public health departments.
- Provide outreach materials and posters where there is a frequent influx of low-income families and youth in high-risk situations, including motels and campgrounds.
- Educate school staff about “warning signs” that may indicate an enrolled child or youth may be experiencing homelessness.



School Stability

- Students experiencing homelessness may attend:
 - **The local attendance area school:**
 - Any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.
 - **The school of origin:**
 - The school the child or youth attended when permanently housed; or
 - The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- **ESSA: School of origin includes preschool**



School Stability

School selection is determined according to “best interest”:

- generally, the student remains in the school of origin unless the parent or unaccompanied youth wishes otherwise.

Students may continue attending the school of origin until the end of any school year in which they move into permanent housing.



School Stability

A student transitioning from one building to another (due to grade level transition) does not have a legal right to attend the feeder school.

ESSA: When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the term "school of origin" shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.



Transportation of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Districts must transport students to and from the school of origin at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth)

When the student is attending the school of origin outside the current district of residence, the district where the student is living and the district of origin determine how to divide the responsibility and cost, or must share the responsibility and cost equally.



Transportation of Students Once Permanently Housed

ESSA: MUST transport to school of origin for the remainder of the school year once permanently housed.



Transportation Best Interest Factors

TO BE CONSIDERED

- Age
- Safety
- Length of stay at the shelter
- Need for special instructional programs distance (impact on education)

NOT TO BE CONSIDERED

- Time
- Distance (impact on district)
- Cost



Transportation Strategies

- Provide passes for public transportation
- Use approved taxi or van services
- Reimburse parents or unaccompanied youth for gas (Sample: http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/hmls_forms)
- Re-route school buses
- Several districts in Wisconsin have created Inter-District Transportation Agreements (Sample: http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/hmls_forms)
- Work with homeless liaison



Title I Eligibility

Children and youth experiencing homelessness are:

- Automatically eligible for Title I services, including services provided through schoolwide or targeted assistance programs.
- Eligible to receive Title I services for the remainder of any school year in which they become permanently housed.
- Eligible to receive Title I services, even if not attending a Title I school, through the Title I set-aside.



Helpful Resources

- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
800-308-2145 <http://serve.org/nche>
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP)
202-638-2535 <http://www.nlchp.org>
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHYC)
202-364-7392 <http://www.naehcy.org>



Contact Information

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Susan Piazza, Wisconsin DPI EHCY Coordinator
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608-267-1284

WI DPI EHCY Program website

www.dpi.wi.gov/homeless/



Enrollment Simulation

This video simulation was created by NYS-TEACHS to highlight something often encountered but rarely examined - the way discussions about homelessness impact whether students in temporary housing are properly identified and enrolled in school. The simulation demonstrates the powerful effect of speaking with sensitivity, and conversely how the lack of sensitivity can derail a conversation with a parent. Conversation choices can make an enormous difference between whether the school district gets the information it needs to make a decision about eligibility under McKinney-Vento and ultimately whether the district is able to carry out its mandates properly under McKinney-Vento.

<http://www.nysteachs.org/materials/Simulation.html>



Thank You



* InSPIRE & MCKINNEY-VENTO PARTNERSHIP

The School District of Janesville



*Currently during the 2015-2016 school year, the Janesville InSPIRE program has served over 40 parenting or pregnant students.

*38% of the InSPIRE students served in the School District of Janesville are McKinney-Vento

*Program Facts

*The School District of Janesville has identified almost 500 homeless students, so far this school year.

*That is 5% of the students in the School District of Janesville.

*Program Facts

- *Finding shelter for youth who have children.
- *Transportation to and from school, doctor's appointments, WIC appointments, etc.
- *Acquiring information such as birth certificate, student ID's, and SS cards.
- *Figuring out/acquiring health insurance.
- *Finding community resources to help support them with the challenges of being homeless, underage and pregnant or parenting.

*Challenges



*Home visits are done on a regular basis for students that have been struggling or not attending school. A representative from each grant conducts the home visit to make sure the student is getting the support they need.

*Academic support is tailored to each individual student in an effort to support their graduation goals. Several parenting teens have been able to graduate as Juniors due to this support.

*Strategies

- *The McKinney-Vento graduation coach is housed at the RRCS so communication is swift and efficient among staff.
- *The InspIRE staff and McKinney-Vento graduation coach attend weekly Student Service meetings together to discuss student concerns.
- *A Google Document that hold student information such as address, school attending, number of student contacts is shared with the entire team from both grants for better documentation and communication on what services have been offered and by whom.

*Strategies

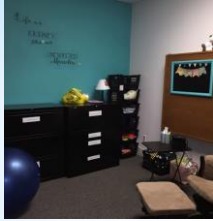


Michelle, Luke, Carrie, Nancy and Liz

*Collaboration is Key

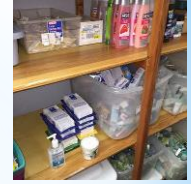
- *McKinney-Vento Graduation coach invites parenting teens to attend college visits.
- *Both program staff attend student conferences
- *Break Bags (food given to students during holidays or when there is no school).
- *Working together to tailor students schedules to meet academic needs.
- *Fee waivers for McKinney-Vento and InSPIRE students
- *Graduation Party with the Elk's Club

*Collaboration



* Resources for students

All students who are identified as McKinney-Vento or are enrolled in the InSPIRE program have access to the school's food pantry, personal hygiene shelves, clothing closet and baby items from the nursery.



* Resources for Students

- *How would these students be identified if not for these services?
- *How many of these students would not be attending school if not for someone checking on them?
- *What if these students were not given bus tokens to get to school every day?
- *How many of these students would not be getting proper nutrition and medical care if not for these programs?
- *How many of these students would achieve their goals to graduate and go to college without an individualized graduation plan/coaching and help with the FAFSA?
- *What would happen if these grants are no longer available? How many students will stay enrolled in school?

* Questions to Consider

McKinney-Vento Staff:

- * Carrie Kulinski, Homeless Liaison
- * Luke McCalmont, Graduation Coach

InSPIRE Staff:

- * Nancy Mignon, Grant Coordinator
- * Michelle Wales, Graduation Coach
- * Liz Murphy, Outreach Graduation Coach

* Staff

For more Information Please Call
Rock River Charter School at:
608- 752-8273

www.rockriver.janesville.k12.wi.us

* Thank You!!

Important Dates

- Summer Institute- June 14-15th
- Year 4 reapplication –July 1st
- End of Year Data Reports- August 31st
- Success Story- August 31st
- 2016 performance measures remain the same as 2015

