

THANK YOU!

Our DPI EHCY team wants you to know how much we value and appreciate the work you do to support students and families experiencing homelessness. We know that you work tirelessly and often don't get a thanks. We are grateful for you, for your energy, your advocacy, and your hard work. Thank you for all you do! We hope this holiday season will be a time to refresh, recharge, and relax – however that looks in our current COVID world! Please see below for tips from your colleagues on self-care ☺

Self-Care/Resiliency Resources

During our December Lunch Time Live, we focused on self-care because we know it's important, especially during COVID. Your colleagues across the state shared ways that they are practicing self-care. We hope these ideas will inspire you to practice your own self-care:

- Declining meetings; Saying no and not feeling guilty
- Diamond Art! Puzzles, crafting
- Netflix binging funny shows
- Podcasts
- Change mindset from "I have to" to "I get to"
- You need to treat yourself like your best friend
- Affirmation board
- Not taking work home; take work email off phone!
- Taking time to give back - specifically giving blood
- You need to take care of yourself before you take care of others
- Providing virtual space for students and staff to decompress, recharge, and reconnect with each other during the day (Example: Virtual calming room from Somerset: <https://sites.google.com/somerset.k12.wi.us/mentalhealthwebsite/home>)
- Walking!
- Weekly emails to staff with self-care tips and humor
- Not qualifying decisions made (not explaining, "Due to COVID, we're doing...")
- Monthly activities calendar <http://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars>
- Gratitude towards others! (Watch this [Soul Pancake](#) video!)
- All staff PD about emotional resilience
- Laughter
- SLEEP and hydration!

NEW Module Available!

The DPI EHCY team is very excited to announce the release of our third training module: A Deeper Dive into McKinney-Vento! The new module can be found on our [website](#).

Upcoming Webinars

January 15 – The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) is hosting a webinar on Evictions and Eviction Moratoriums with Michael Santos, Senior Staff Attorney with Bay Area Legal Aid – Housing. For more information, visit [NAEHCY's website](#).

January 21, 9:30 a.m. – FERPA Webinar– Patricia Julianelle from SchoolHouse Connection will present on FERPA, how it relates to students experiencing homelessness, and scenarios to apply FERPA.

February 11, 11:30 a.m. – Lunch Time Live Homeless Liaison Chat Series

February 24, 8:30 a.m. - **DPI Quarterly Webinar** – We'll be joined by a panel from the Wisconsin Technical College System and school district homeless liaisons to talk about how to build connections between K-12 and WTCS to support students experiencing homelessness. If you have a partnership with someone in a local technical college, we'd love to hear from you and talk with you about participating in our panel!

March 18, 9:00 a.m. – **EHCY Compliance Grant Informational Webinar**- Any LEA interested in applying for the EHCY Compliance Grant should plan to join us at this time for an informational webinar about the grant application and requirements of the grant.

eBrief Sign-Up

If you know of others who would like to receive this eBrief, please share [this link](#) so they can be added to our mailing list.

New Resources!

[Charter Schools and Homeless Youth](#)

Report from SchoolHouse Connection that includes practices and recommendations for charter schools to support youth experiencing homelessness.

[Public Service Announcements](#)

To help spread the word and give communities a place for outreach and identification, there are three Public Service Announcements aimed at reaching different audiences - including Elmo's message to children and parents experiencing homelessness.

[Partial Credit State Workgroup](#)

DPI EHCY staff would like to invite homeless liaisons from any LEA to participate in a statewide workgroup on issuing partial credits for students experiencing homelessness. This group would create resources or tools for all LEAs in Wisconsin to utilize. Please let Karen Rice (karen.rice@dpi.wi.gov) know if you are interested in joining by February 1st.

[State Coordinator Corner](#)

Karen and Kristine will continue to work from home for the foreseeable future. We are still available to answer any questions, via phone or email.

We have been busy presenting, working with our Community of Practice, and planning upcoming opportunities.

Resources

[DPI EHCY website](#)
[NCHE](#)
[NAEHCY](#)
[SchoolHouse Connection](#)
[McKinney-Vento Act](#)
[McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)

SchoolHouse Connection Report on Under-Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness

From SchoolHouse Connection:

“Schools provide safety, stability, and services for children and youth experiencing homelessness, as well as the education that is necessary to avoid homelessness as adults. However, in order to benefit from targeted educational protections and services, children and youth must first be identified as experiencing homelessness. New survey data suggests that an estimated 420,000 fewer children and youth experiencing homelessness have been identified and enrolled by schools so far this school year – despite evidence of increasing homelessness, and despite proactive identification efforts by many school district homeless liaisons. This decrease in homeless student enrollment, combined with previous estimates of under-identification, means that as many as 1.4 million children and youth experiencing homelessness may be un-identified and unsupported by their school during the pandemic. Survey responses also demonstrate significant unmet basic needs, as well as the failure of federal CARES Act dollars to reach children and youth experiencing homelessness. If our nation is ever to recover from COVID-19, we must increase outreach to and support for children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness through public schools and early childhood programs, and prioritize their education and well-being in all public systems of care.”

The Report: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Lost-in-the-Masked-Shuffle-and-Virtual-Void.pdf>

Compliance Grant Opportunity

The DPI EHCY team will be providing LEAs across the state the opportunity to apply for a mini grant this spring. The purpose of this grant is to help LEAs ensure they are in compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act. This will be a two-year grant beginning in the 2021-22 school year. EHCY staff will be hosting a webinar on the grant application on March 18th for any LEA interested in applying. LEAs are encouraged to be thinking about how this grant might support their work with students experiencing homelessness.

A PDF of this eBrief is available on the [DPI EHCY Webpage](#)

A Newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,
Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent

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