



New Hampshire

Department of Education

2024 Spring ESEA Title Programs Conference

McKinney - Vento

NH Department of Education
Office of ESEA Programs
Bureau of Instructional Support

Complete office details at [Office of ESEA Title Programs | Department of Education \(nh.gov\)](#)



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Agenda | McKinney - Vento

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Part 1 | Introduction

Students experiencing homelessness face many barriers in accessing their education.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

- Provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness
- To provide these services, all schools are required to designate a Homeless Liaison to help families and students get the services they need and fully participate in their education.

Title IX, Part A



Part 2 | McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness

- The term Homeless Children and Youth means individuals who lack a **Fixed, Regular, and Adequate nighttime residence.**
- 42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)
- This can include:
 - Living doubled up due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar problems
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or campgrounds due to lack of alternate adequate housing
 - Living in a private or public space not meant for human nighttime residence
 - Living in a bus station, car, abandoned building, park or substandard housing.

Fixed, Regular and Adequate

- **Fixed:** Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change (doubled up is often NOT fixed)
- **Regular:** Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis (*e.g. nightly*); consider the relative permanence of the living arrangement
- **Adequate:** Sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments

Doubled Up

- McKinney-Vento definition of Doubled-Up is “Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason”
- When the housing is shared, we look at the reason why, not necessarily the accommodations that are available.
- Questions to ask when determining doubled up:
 1. Why did the parties move in together? Crisis or by mutual choice as a plan for mutual benefit?
 2. How permanent is the living situation intended to be?
 3. Where would the student live if not doubled up?

Part 3 | Identification

One of the requirements under McKinney-Vento is the Children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies. Some strategies for identification include:

- Post information about McKinney-Vento in well placed areas within the schools
- Embed questions and information about homelessness in all school and district outreach efforts, as many new families and youth are likely to fall into homelessness due to current economic stressors. It is more important than ever to ensure that all parents and students know about McKinney-Vento and related rights.
- Ensure that all staff are trained to identify McKinney-Vento families and students at the start of the new school year. This can include registrars, secretaries, teachers, bus drivers, and administrative staff
- Engage all your community partners to post McKinney-Vento information and meet additional student and family needs. This could include food banks, laundromats, legal services, faith communities, motels, campgrounds, shelters, Boys and Girls clubs, LGBTQ+ youth organizations, culturally-specific organizations, clinics serving low-income families, public benefits offices



Part 4 | Student Rights

Students who are McKinney-Vento Eligible have the right to:

- receive a free, appropriate public education;
- enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment, or having missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness;
- enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents;
- continue attending the school of origin, or enroll in the local attendance area school if attending the school of origin is not in the best interest of the student or is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth;
- receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested by the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth
- receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's need.



School of Origin: Maintaining Stability

- Local education agencies (LEAs or school districts) must keep homeless children and youth in the school of origin, to the extent feasible, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- Changing schools greatly impacts student's academic and social growth. The McKinney-Vento Act requires LEAs to maintain homeless students' educational stability by allowing them to remain in their school of origin when to the extent feasible
- There should be a Best Interest Determination meeting with all districts involved that takes in all factors relating to the student's ability to continue at school of origin including – age, length of travel to school, connections, time remaining in the school year, and parent/student preference.
- Resource: [School Selection \(ed.gov\)](#)
- 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)(i)

School Selection

- While school of origin is often considered best interest due to school stability, there is **school choice** for children and youth

Homeless Children and Youth
have the right to attend:

- **The School of Origin**
 - The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or
 - The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled
 - *Includes receiving schools*
- **The local attendance area school**
 - Any public school that the non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are able to attend

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(ii)

Transportation

- LEAs must provide transportation to & from school of origin (includes public pre-school) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii):
 - At parent or guardian request, or at liaison request for an unaccompanied youth. UHY can also request transportation.
 - Until end of the school year if student obtains permanent housing.
 - Even if transportation not typically provided.
 - If temporarily staying in same LEA, that LEA must provide transportation to school of origin.

Scenario 1: **Living and Attending in the same district:** If the Child or Youth continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, the student's transportation shall be provided or arranged by the district in which the school of origin is located.

Scenario 2: **Living in one district, attending in another:** If the student, though continuing to attend the school of origin begins living in an area served by another district, the district of origin and the district in which the student is living shall agree upon a method to share the responsibility and costs for providing the transportation. If no agreement can be made, the responsibility and cost shall be split equally.

Allowable Uses for Title I, Part A Homeless Set Aside

- items of clothing, particularly necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement;
- clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes;
- student fees that are necessary to participate in the general education program;
- personal school supplies;
- birth certificates necessary to enroll in school;
- immunizations;
- food;
- medical and dental services;
- eyeglasses and hearing aids;
- counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning;
- outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences;
- extended learning time (before and after school, Saturday classes, summer school) to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions;
- tutoring services, especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live;
- parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students;
- fees for Advanced Placement (AP) and International
- Fees for college entrance exams such as the SAT or ACT
- Transportation above and beyond the normal costs for transporting students

All activities must be reasonable and necessary.

Part 5 | Duties of a District Homeless Liaison

The McKinney-Vento Act includes a “job description” for the local liaison in the form of a list of duties. According to the Act [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)], local liaisons must ensure that:

1. Children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
2. Children and youth experiencing homelessness are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools within the district;
3. Children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Early Head Start and Head Start programs, early intervention services under Part C of the Individual with Disabilities Education



Duties of Homeless Liaison Continued

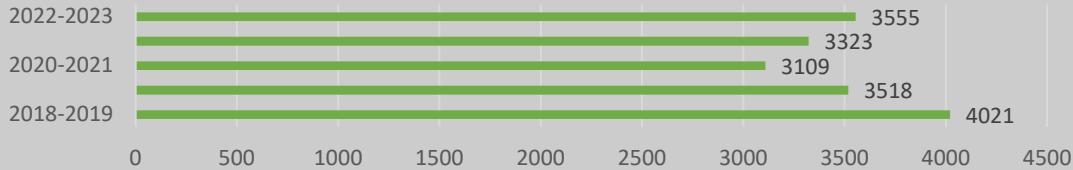
4. Children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness receive referrals to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing, and other appropriate services
5. The parents or guardians of students experiencing homelessness are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
6. Public notice of the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness is disseminated in locations frequented by families and youth experiencing homelessness, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth;
7. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the provisions of the Act

Duties of Homeless Liaison Continued

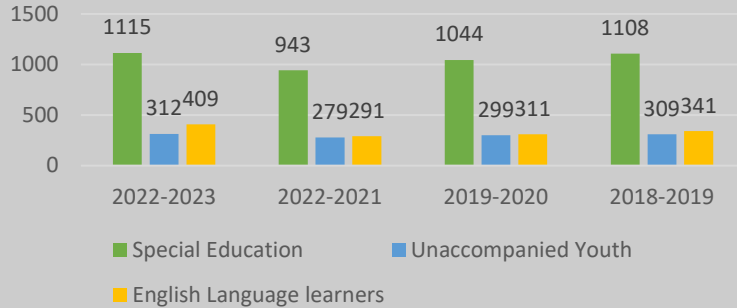
8. Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are fully informed of all transportation services available to McKinney Vento students, including transportation to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation;
9. School personnel providing services to students experiencing homelessness receive professional development and other support; and
10. Unaccompanied youth
 - (I) are enrolled in school;
 - (II) have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youth; and
 - (III) are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 1087vv), and receive assistance verifying this status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Part 6 | Data and Scenerios

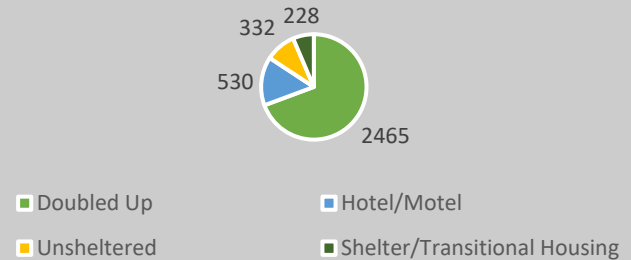
Children and Youth Experiencing Homlessness in Public Schools in New Hampshire



Special Populations



Primary Nighttime Residence in 2022-2023



Scenerios

1. The school finds out that Kiley, a 10th grader, is couch surfing. Her mom kicked her out and she's been living with friends for a couple nights at a time. She can go live with her aunt and uncle, but they live 30 minutes away and she really wants to stay in school with her friends, so she hasn't taken them up on that. What steps can the school take to help Kiley? Would she be eligible for transportation? Who would pay for transportation?
2. A single Dad has lost his house due to economic reasons. He has moved in with his sister and it seems to be an adequate situation for the parent and his daughter. The sister has told them they can stay as long as they need too. Would this situation be considered McKinney-Vento?

Scenerios

1. A family of 6 must move into a one-bedroom apartment with the mother's parents. They lost their housing due to a fire and had no other choices. Would they be considered McKinney-Vento? What if, instead of an apartment, the mother's parents own a 4-bedroom house, and everyone has plenty of room?
2. Melissa has always been a decent student. Her grades have always been ok but have begun to slip. Teachers are also reporting that she has stopped participating in class and has even fallen asleep a couple times. She also starts coming into school late a couple of times a week. What should the teachers do?
3. It comes out through discussion that Melissa's family got kicked out of their apartment and now they are living with family friends in a one bedroom in a town 20 min away. What are next steps for the school?

Questions



Part 7 | Resources

- School Eligibility – [Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services \(ed.gov\)](#)
- School Enrollment - [Enrolling Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in School \(ed.gov\)](#)
- Transportation - [Transporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness \(ed.gov\)](#)
- NHED McKinney-Vento Website - [Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program | Department of Education \(nh.gov\)](#)
- Other Resources for more learning:
- NCHE – Federal McKinney-Vento Technical Assistance [National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- Schoolhouse Connection - [Home - SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- How to fill out FAFSA for Unaccompanied Youth - [How to Answer FAFSA Questions About Homelessness - SchoolHouse Connection](#)

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