

# McKinney-Vento: New Liaison Training and Refresher

February 19, 2025

3:00pm-4:00pm

Melissa Rilette Burnce, McKinney-Vento Training Supervisor



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# Vision, Mission, and Values



## Vision

*All students prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.*

## Mission

Transform K-12 education to a system that is centered on closing opportunity gaps and is characterized by high expectations for all students and educators. We achieve this by developing equity-based policies and supports that empower educators, families, and communities.

## Values

- Ensuring Equity
- Collaboration and Service
- Achieving Excellence through Continuous Improvement
- Focus on the Whole Child



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## Equity Statement

Each student, family, and community possesses strengths and cultural knowledge that benefits their peers, educators, and schools.

Ensuring educational equity:

- Goes beyond equality; it requires education leaders to examine the ways current policies and practices result in disparate outcomes for our students of color, students living in poverty, students receiving special education and English Learner services, students who identify as LGBTQ+, and highly mobile student populations.
- Requires education leaders to develop an understanding of historical contexts; engage students, families, and community representatives as partners in decision-making; and actively dismantle systemic barriers, replacing them with policies and practices that ensure all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools.



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- Develop equity-based policies to **empower educators**
- Focus on the Whole Child
- **Collaboration** and service
- Examine policies and practices that result in disparate outcomes
- Understand historical contexts
- **Engage learners**
- Ensure ALL students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed.



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# Tribal Land Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the Indigenous people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and who still inhabit the area today, the Steh-Chass Band of Indigenous people of the Squaxin Island Tribe.



# Who is Here Today?

- Are you a newer liaison?
- Do you need a refresher?
- How long have you been in your position?

# What is the McKinney-Vento Act?





# McKinney-Vento Act

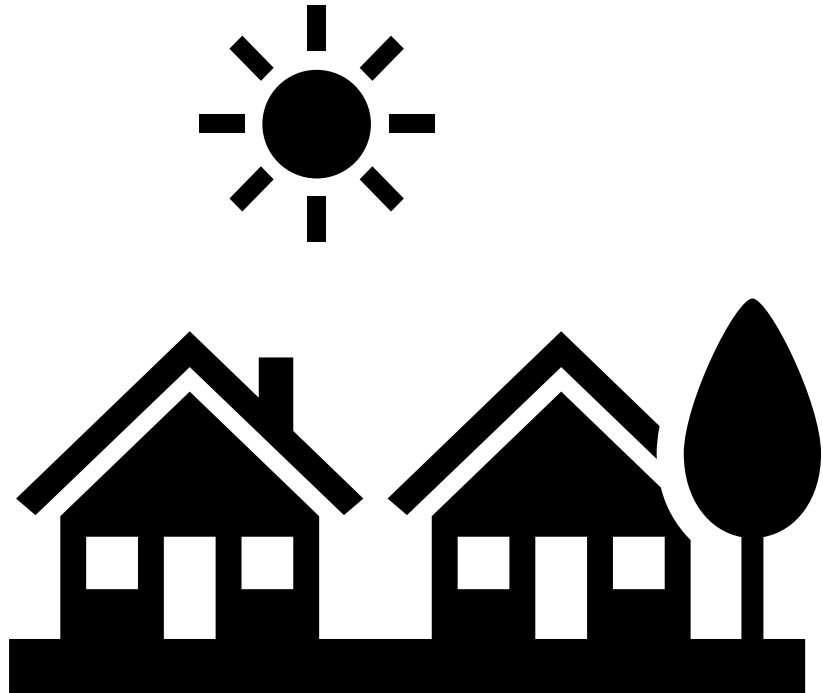
The [McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act](#) is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.



# How Does McKinney-Vento Define Homelessness?

The McKinney-Vento Act defines children experiencing homeless as "individuals who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence."

# Fixed

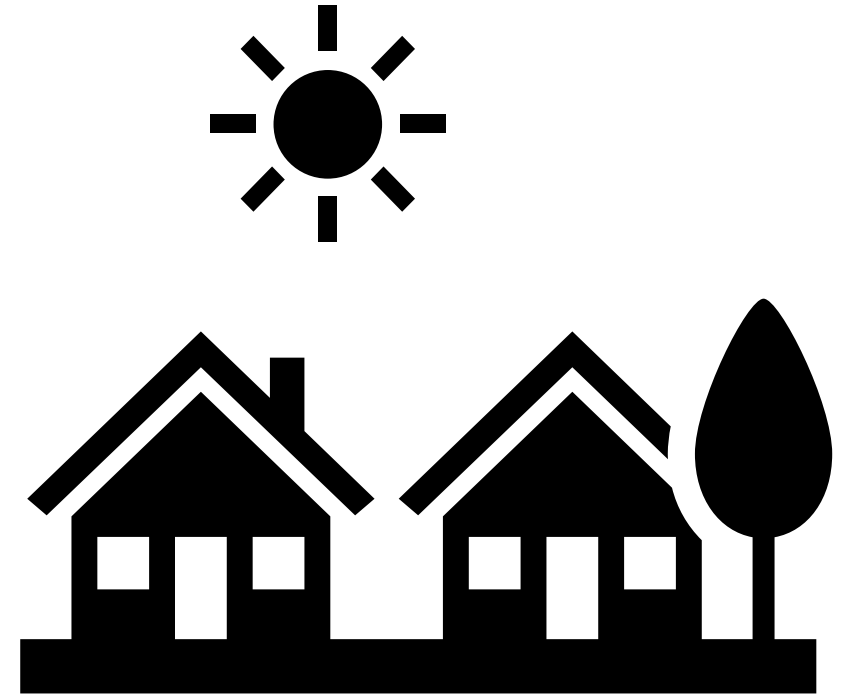


- placed or attached in a way that does not move easily\*
- securely placed or fastened\*
- not subject to change or fluctuation\*

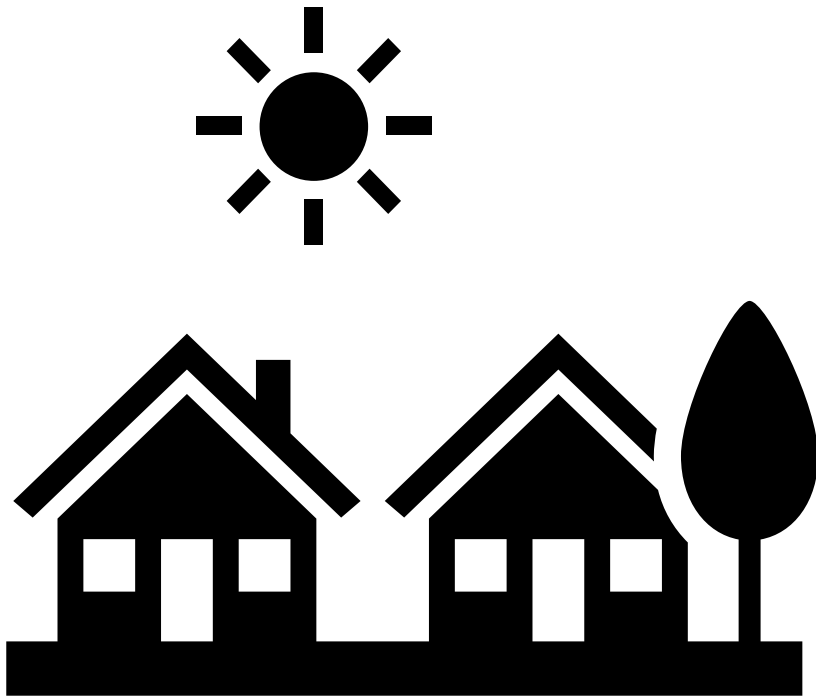


# Regular

- happening repeatedly at the same time or in the same way; occurring every day, week, month, etc.\*
- recurring, attending, or functioning at fixed, uniform, or normal intervals\*



# Adequate



- sufficient for a specific requirement\*
- fully sufficient; equal to what is required; lawfully and reasonably sufficient\*\*

# Children and Youth Who Would Fall Under This Definition

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals

# Children and Youth Who Would Fall Under This Definition Cont.

- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g., park benches, etc.)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

# Why We Use, “Experiencing Homelessness”

The term “homeless” can be problematic for several reasons:

- ☐ Dehumanizing Effect
- ☐ Stigmatization
- ☐ Temporary State
- ☐ Person-First Language

# Instead:

Use phrases that describe the actual living situation, rather than the person.

What are some phrases you use? Put them in the chat box.

# Every District **MUST** Have a Dedicated McKinney-Vento Liaison.



Under the McKinney-Vento Act, every school district **must appoint a local homeless education liaison** (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)).





# McKinney-Vento Law: Key Provisions, Roles, and Responsibilities of the Liaison



# Identification



Identification of students experiencing homelessness is one of the main duties for a liaison. Identification ensures that students receive educational supports and creates a bridge between students and families to inside and outside supports. What are some ways you identify in your district?

# Student Housing Questionnaire

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

The answers to the following questions can help determine the services this student may be eligible to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act 42 U.S.C. 11435. The McKinney-Vento Act provides services and supports for children and youth experiencing homelessness (Please see reverse side for more information).

**If the student lives in a home owned or rented by the parent or guardian, you do not need to complete this form unless there are inadequate facilities (no water, heat, electricity, etc.)**

If the student does not live in a home owned or rented by the parent or guardian, please check all that apply below. (Submit form to the district's designated McKinney-Vento liaison. Contact information can be found at the bottom of the page.)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Housing  | <input type="checkbox"/> In a motel                               | <input type="checkbox"/> In a shelter                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In someone else's house or apartment with another person/family               | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving from place to place/couch surfing | <input type="checkbox"/> A car, park, campsite, or similar location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a residence with inadequate facilities (no water, heat, electricity, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                              |   |

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (Month/Day/Year): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Student is unaccompanied (not living with a parent or legal guardian)  
☐ Student is living with a parent or legal guardian

Address of current residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number or contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of parent(s)/legal guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Or unaccompanied youth)

Signature of parent/legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Or unaccompanied youth)

☐ The student(s) named above have younger siblings/children (not yet school age) who are in need of developmental screening, community support, or referrals to early childhood services. The district's McKinney-Vento liaison may be able to assist you with age-appropriate resources.

**Please return completed form to:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
District McKinney-Vento Liaison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Location



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**For School Personnel Only:** For data collection purposes and student information system coding

☐ (N) Not Homeless ☐ (A) Shelters ☐ (B) Doubled-Up ☐ (C) Unsheltered ☐ (D) Hotels/Motels

## McKinney-Vento Act 42 U.S.C. 11435

### SEC. 725. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this subtitle:

(1) The terms enroll' and enrollment' include attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

(2) The term homeless children and youths' —

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and

(B) includes —

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals;

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

(6) The term unaccompanied youth' includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

## Additional Resources

Parent information and resources can be found at the following:

[National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)

[National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)

[SchoolHouse Connection](#)



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[Resources for Homeless Children and Youth \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](https://resources.wa.gov/homeless-children-youth/)

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# Best Practice: Identification

- Remember fixed, regular and adequate
- Send out housing questionnaire more than once a year
- Provide multiple professional development opportunities
- Train staff to recognize signs
- Place information in accessible areas
- Collaborate with building points of contact



# Immediate Enrollment

Students who qualify under McKinney-Vento **must** be enrolled immediately even if they are unable to provide paperwork normally required for enrollment [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)(I)].



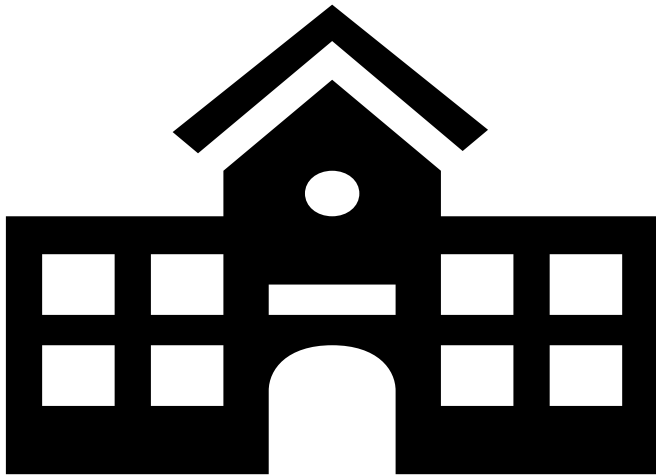
# Best Practice: Enrollment



- Must enroll even without normally required paperwork
- Have a system in place within your buildings



# School of Origin



The school of origin is the school that a child or youth attended *when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool* (Section 722(g)(3)(I)(i)).



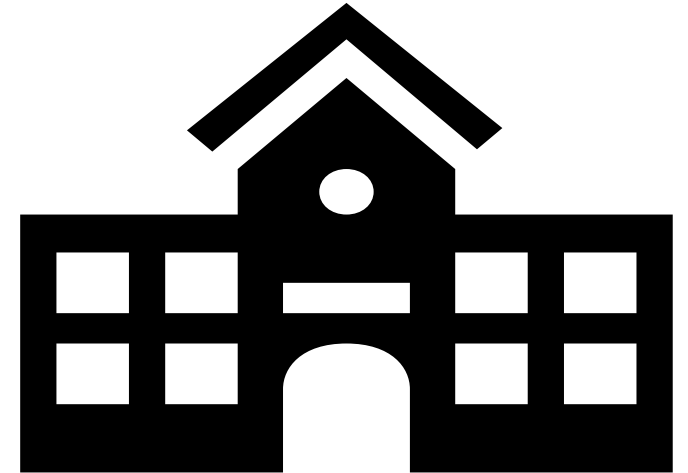
# School of Origin, Cont.

- When a child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools (such as when an elementary school feeds into a middle school). (Section 722(g)(3)(I)(ii)).
- Students can continue attending their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they become permanently housed (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II), 2001).
- If a student becomes homeless in between academic years, he or she can continue attending the school of origin for the following school year (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(I), 2001).



# Best Practice: School of Origin

- Provides consistency
- Helps with a smooth transition
- Connects family with school staff
- Provides community information



# Early Learning

Local liaisons must ensure that homeless children and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, ECEAP, and other preschool programs administered by the LEA; and referrals to health care, dental, mental health, and other appropriate services

A deeper look at Early Learning can be viewed in the [OSPI Canvas course](#). [42 U.S.C.

§11432(g)(6)(A)(iii)].



# Best Practice: Early Learning



- On housing questionnaires, ask about younger siblings
- Put a building plan in place
- Be sure notices are seen and available



# Inform Families, Students, and Youth



The district McKinney-Vento liaison ensures that homeless parents and unaccompanied homeless youth are informed of the educational protections in the law.



# Best Practice: Informing

- Sit down with youth and families to ensure they understand the protections of the law.
- Create the connection between families and building points of contact.





# Provide Referrals

Some examples include:

- Food Pantries
- Medical Clinics
- Mental Health
- Tutoring
- Housing
- Insurance
- Food Stamps
- Transportation
- Legal Support





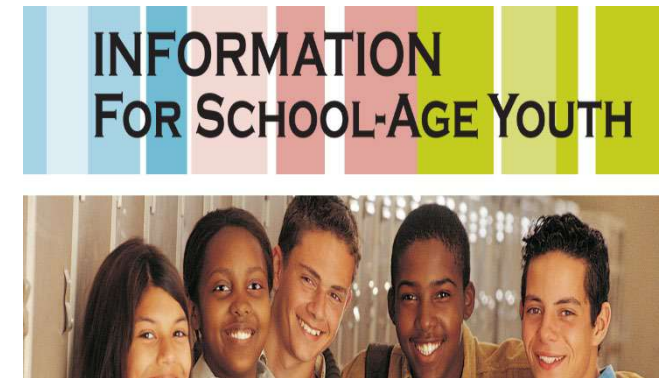
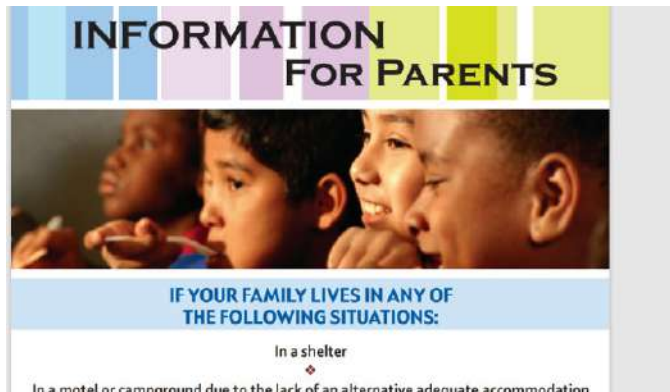
# Best Practice: Referrals



- Place notice of local food pantries on website and in easily accessible areas
- Sign students up for weekly food bags
- Prepare forms for UHY for Health Care Service
- Sit down with families and youth to sign up for services



# Placement of Educational Rights of Students and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



We are in the process of expanding and updating our MV posters, we will have more languages available soon. The posters may look a little different.

[Order Posters Here](#)

# Best Practice: Placement of Educational Rights

- Post in multiple places.
- Post in multiple languages.
- The contact information for both the district homeless liaison and the state homeless education coordinator should be included on the posters.

## **Some examples of where to place posters:**

- All school district buildings (in more than one place)
- Community centers
- Libraries
- Malls
- Health departments and free clinics





# Dispute Resolution



Students and families may disagree with a school district on issues related to eligibility for McKinney-Vento services, school enrollment, and school selection. The McKinney-Vento Act includes dispute resolution among the required duties of the school district homeless liaison.



# Facts About Dispute Resolution

- This is a required responsibility of the district McKinney-Vento liaison.
- If a dispute arises over school selection, enrollment in a school, or whether the student meets the definition of homeless, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.



# Facts About Dispute Resolution, Cont.



- The district must provide a written explanation of its decision to the parent/guardian/unaccompanied homeless youth. This is the responsibility of the liaison.
- Disputes related to eligibility, school selection, or enrollment should be initiated at the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth and not at the request or convenience of the school district.



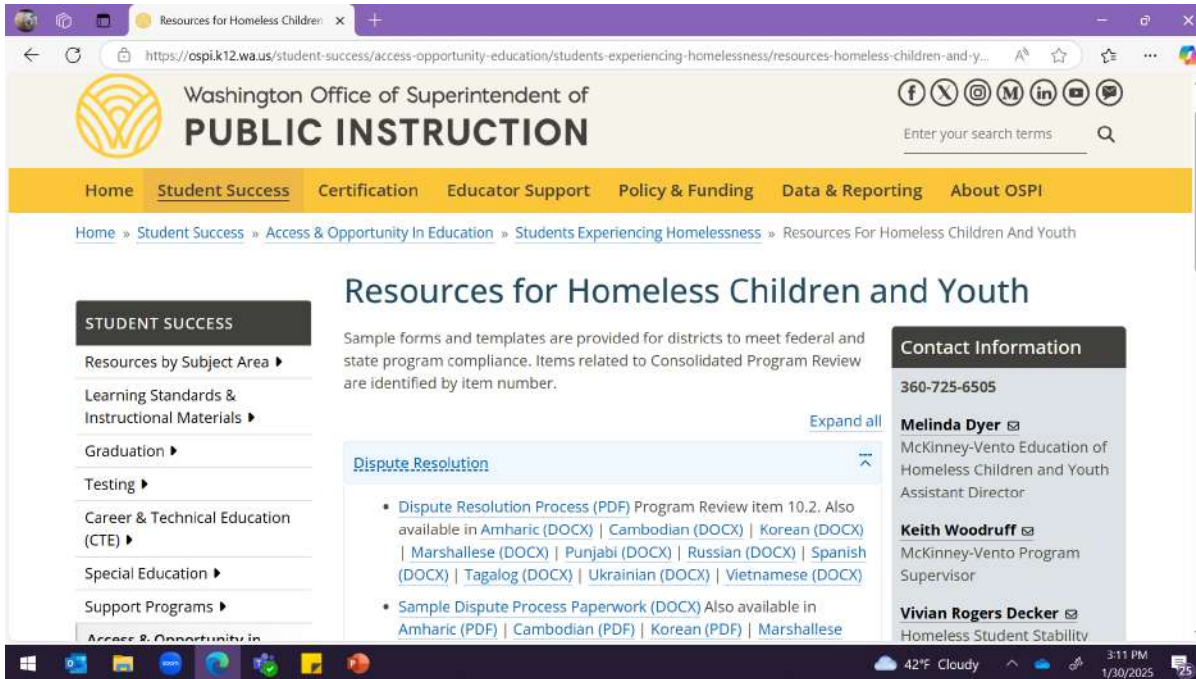
# Best Practice: Dispute Resolution

- Be organized
- Be patient
- Stay on the time-line





# Where to Find the Dispute Resolution



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Home Student Success Certification Educator Support Policy & Funding Data & Reporting About OSPI

Home » Student Success » Access & Opportunity In Education » Students Experiencing Homelessness » Resources For Homeless Children And Youth

## Resources for Homeless Children and Youth

Sample forms and templates are provided for districts to meet federal and state program compliance. Items related to Consolidated Program Review are identified by item number.


[Expand all](#)


### Dispute Resolution


- Dispute Resolution Process (PDF) Program Review item 10.2. Also available in [Amharic \(DOCX\)](#) | [Cambodian \(DOCX\)](#) | [Korean \(DOCX\)](#) | [Marshalllese \(DOCX\)](#) | [Punjabi \(DOCX\)](#) | [Russian \(DOCX\)](#) | [Spanish \(DOCX\)](#) | [Tagalog \(DOCX\)](#) | [Ukrainian \(DOCX\)](#) | [Vietnamese \(DOCX\)](#)
- Sample Dispute Process Paperwork (DOCX) Also available in [Amharic \(PDF\)](#) | [Cambodian \(PDF\)](#) | [Korean \(PDF\)](#) | [Marshalllese](#)

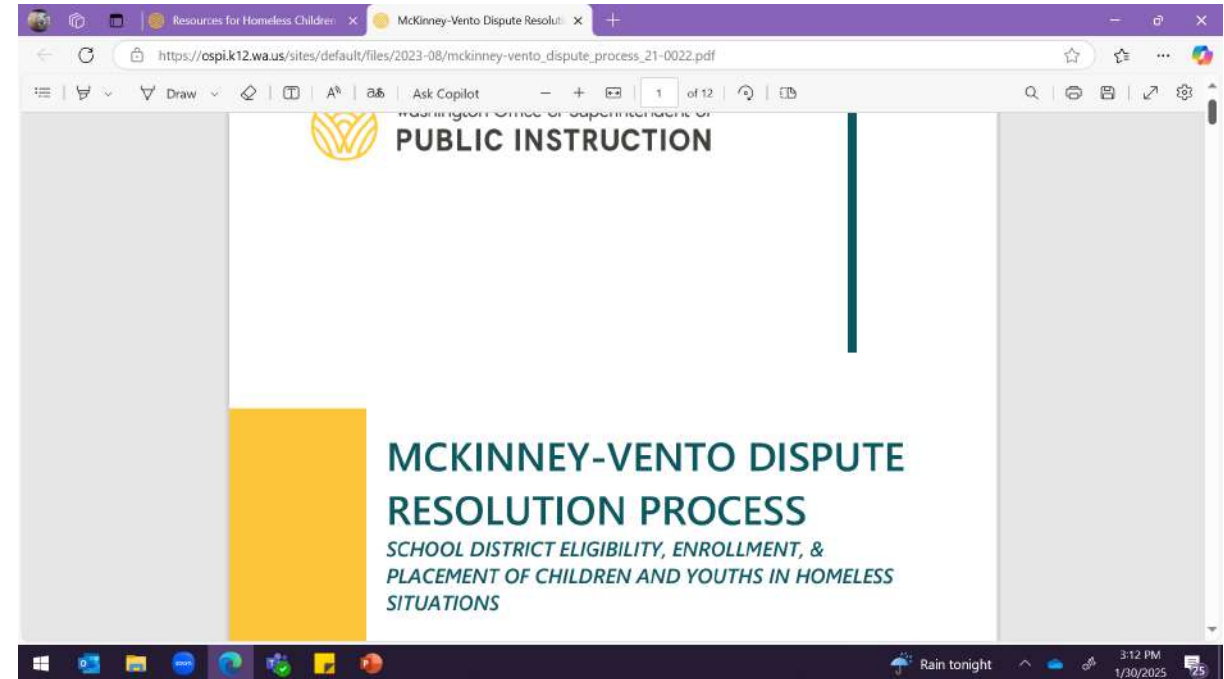
### Contact Information

**360-725-6505**

**Melinda Dyer**   
McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistant Director

**Keith Woodruff**   
McKinney-Vento Program Supervisor

**Vivian Rogers Decker**   
Homeless Student Stability



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## MCKINNEY-VENTO DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

*SCHOOL DISTRICT ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT, & PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTHS IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS*

# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



# What is the Definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth?

An unaccompanied youth is a child or youth not in the physical custody of (not living with) a parent or guardian. To be eligible for services, the youth **must** also meet the definition of homeless.



# Best Practice: Unaccompanied Youth

- Make 1:1 connection
- Listen
- Provide youth with needed forms
- Help them fill out FAFSA and learn about higher ed





# Professional Development For School District Staff



- On-going trainings
- Sign-in sheets
- Take-aways
- Resources
- Scenarios
- Connections

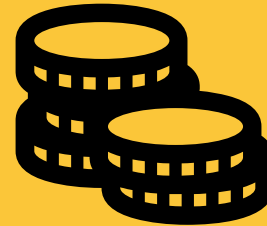
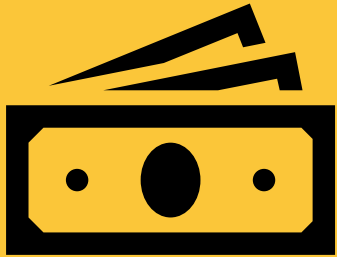


# Best Practice: Professional Development for District Staff

- Provide more than once a year
- Provide one-pagers
- Provide contact information, including summer



# Funding



# Title I, Part A, Homeless Set-Aside

State and local educational agencies have specific requirements to serve children and youth experiencing homelessness through Title I, Part A, including local requirements to reserve funds for homeless students to meet a broad range of educationally-related needs.

Homeless children and youths are automatically eligible for services under Title I, Part A of the ESEA, whether or not they live in a Title I school attendance area or meet the academic standards required of other children for eligibility (ESEA section 1115(c)(2)(E)).



# Title I, Part A funds may be used to provide a wide variety of services. Some examples may include:

- Clothing and shoes necessary to participate fully in school
- Student fees necessary to participate
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks
- Birth certificates
- 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)
- Tutoring services
- Parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students
- Fees for AP and IB testing
- Fees for college entrance exams such as SAT or ACT
- GED testing for school-age students

# Competitive Grants

- McKinney-Vento Grant - Federal
- Homeless Student Stability Education Program (HSSEP) Grant - State



# McKinney-Vento Act Grant

The federal McKinney-Vento Act Grant is a competitive grant available to school districts that serve students experiencing homelessness.



Funds are used to provide services and activities to improve the identification of homeless children and youths (including preschool-aged homeless children) and enable such children and youths to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school, including, if appropriate, in preschool programs.



# Homeless Student Stability Education Program (HSSEP) Grant

This grant is an additional grant opportunity available to increase districts' capacity to identify and support students experiencing homelessness.

Funds are complementary to McKinney-Vento Act dollars with greater weight given to districts that demonstrate a commitment to:

- Partnering with local housing and community-based organizations.
- Serving the needs of unaccompanied youth.
- Implementing evidence-informed strategies to address the opportunity gap and other systemic inequities that negatively impact students experiencing homelessness and students of color.
- Districts may access both federal and state funding to support students experiencing homelessness, however HSSEP funding must be supplemental in nature, and not supplant Title I or McKinney-Vento funding allocated for the same purpose.



# Example Timeline

- Identify
- Train
- Professional development
- Send out housing questionnaires
- Ensure posters are hung in schools and in the community
- Regional meetings
- Send cookies to your transportation dept.

- Identify
- Train
- Professional development
- Send out housing questionnaires
- Ensure placement of posters are hung in schools and in the community
- Regional meetings

- Identify
- Train
- Professional development
- Send out housing questionnaires
- Check addresses
- Order posters
- Update liaison info
- Regional meetings
- Send cookies to your transportation Dept.

**Sept - Oct**

**Nov- Dec**

**Jan - Feb**

**Mar - Apr**

**May - June**

**Summer**

- Identify
- Professional development
- Review district policy
- Meet with outside partners

- Identify
- Professional development

- Provide a summer contact
- Relax and rejuvenate!





# Additional Timeline Information

- [McKinney-Vento 2024-2025 Calendar of Events - Google Docs](#)

## McKinney-Vento School Year 2024-2025 Calendar of Events



This calendar serves as a starting point for homeless liaisons to organize the implementation of requirements, outreach, resources, and other activities to support students experiencing homelessness, offering strategies and best practices on implementing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act throughout the school year. It is essential for each local educational agency (LEA) to regularly update and customize this calendar to suit their specific needs. Newly appointed homeless liaisons can find additional information on their roles and responsibilities by visiting SchoolHouse Connection's [dedicated webpage for new liaisons](#).

AUGUST 2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Send a housing questionnaire to <i>all</i> families and follow up with all families who indicate they may be eligible for McKinney-Vento services. Be sure to include a question about younger siblings or non-school-aged children in the home.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure all eligible families are identified and services are set up.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide annual staff training, including basic McKinney-Vento information and procedures for referring to the homeless liaison or building point of contact.





# Resources

- [OSPI Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Homeless Education Inbox](#)
- [Confirming Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services](#)
- [Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services](#)
- [School Selection and Best Interest Determination](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection McKinney-Vento 2024-2025 Calendar of Events - Google Docs](#)
- [OSPI McKinney-Vento-Poster-Order-Form](#)



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