

Understanding Homelessness in Educational Settings

McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Act in Practice
Wyoming Homeless Youth Conference, April 26, 2018

Program Goal

The purpose of this presentation is to provide a general overview of the statutory requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and learn about the face of child and youth homelessness in Wyoming.

Who Are the Homeless?

- There are two federal definitions of homelessness.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines homelessness as living in a shelter, in a car, on the street, or a place not designed for human habitation.
- The Department of Education definition is broader, defining an individual as homeless if their residence is not fixed, regular, and adequate.



Wyoming Department of Education April 2018

Fixed

Stationary,
permanent, and not
subject to change



Regular

Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis (e.g., nightly); consider the relative permanence



Adequate

Sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments



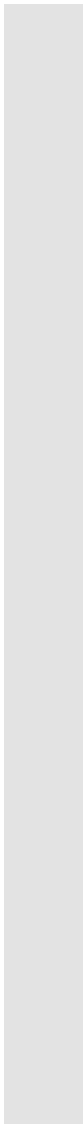
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Youth experiencing homelessness while not residing with their legal parent or guardian



Examples

- Families sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason (“doubling up”)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar setting
- Fleeing domestic violence
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances





Minimum Housing Standards

- Separate kitchen and bathroom with operational sinks
- Food refrigeration
- Functional stove or range with oven
- Hot and cold running water
- Proper heating facilities
- Kitchen must have space for storage, preparation and serving of food
- At least one bathroom with a bathtub or shower, flush toilet, sink and ensure privacy
- Home must be free from insect or rodent infestation
- Home must have solid foundation
- Every sleeping room must have a window or door providing access to the outside
- Home must provide shelter from the weather; roof does not leak
- Home must be of adequate size; no overcrowding

Wyoming by the Numbers



Wyoming by the Numbers

Source: Administration for Children
and Families. 2016. *Early Childhood
Homelessness in the United States:
50-State Profile*



Wyoming by the Numbers



44
Doubled-up
vs. Shelter



45
Access to
Child Care



50
Access to
Pre-K

Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness







Impacts on Health and Development

- 75% - at least one major developmental delay
- 40% - two or more major developmental delays
- 35% - emotional or behavioral problems
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Aggression and hostility
 - Withdrawal
 - Intense reaction to “minor events”
- 20% - extreme emotional distress warranting professional intervention
 - 75% of these children do not receive treatment

From McKinney-Vento and Preschool Aged Homeless Children, National Center for Homeless Education

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

50%
Physical Abuse

2/3
Parental
Substance Abuse

40%
History of Foster
Care

1/3
LGBT

25%
Victim of Sex
Trafficking

What is McKinney- Vento?

- Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: reauthorized by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds 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

Student Rights

- Immediate enrollment, even if the student is lacking documentation normally required (such as a birth certificate)
- Attendance at the “school of origin” or the local attendance area school, whichever is in the best interest of the child
- Transportation to the school of origin
- Dispute resolution
- Free breakfast and lunch
- Categorically eligible for Title I, Part A
- Students are eligible for services through the end of the school year they are identified, even if they become permanently housed

District Responsibilities

Districts must:

- Designate a local homeless education liaison
- Ensure that the local liaison attends training provided by the State Coordinator for Homeless Education
- Identify homeless children, even if they are not currently enrolled in school
- Review policies to eliminate barriers to homeless children and youth, including policies regarding school fees and activities
- Provide immediate enrollment
- Inform parents, guardians, and/or youth of their educational rights
- Ensure the public posting of educational rights through the district and community
- Link homeless students with educational and other services, including preschool, health and housing services
- Ensure that disputes are resolved promptly
- Collaborate with other district programs and community agencies

Permissible Usages of Funds

- Used only when not available from other sources
- Partial List:
 - Clothing/shoes (school uniform/dress code/gym uniform)
 - Fees to participate in the general education program
 - School supplies
 - Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school
 - Medical/Dental services (glasses, hearing aids, immunizations)
 - Counseling for issues affecting learning, including counseling for issues arising due to domestic violence
 - Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences
 - Extended learning time or tutoring support

Prohibited Usages of Funds

- Rent
- Utilities
- Clothing for parents



The Every Student Succeeds Act and McKinney-Vento

- Most changes reflect what was considered “best practice” under No Child Left Behind
- Changes of Note
 - A child’s homeless status is now considered part of his/her educational record and is subject to FERPA
 - Demographic data for homeless students must now be part of the State Education Agency website; graduation rates for homeless students must now be calculated
 - “Awaiting foster care” removed from definition of homelessness
 - Local homeless liaisons must now receive training from the State Coordinator for Homeless Education
 - School leaders, including attendance officers, enrollment personnel, and counseling staff must have training in McKinney-Vento

Want to Learn More?

4th Annual Wyoming Homeless
Education Workshop

June 19-20, 2018
Riverton Middle School
Riverton, WY



Questions



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