



McKinney-Vento

101 New Liaisons

September 19, 2023

10:00am-12:00am



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Agenda

- OSPI Introductions and Business
- McKinney-Vento- The What and The Who
- Provisions- What is Required?
- Higher Education and FAFSA
- Early Learning
- What is My Role as a Liaison?
- Implementation
- You Have Help!
- Advice
- Reflect
- Resources



Meet the OSPI Homeless Ed Team



Melinda Dyer
Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistant Director



Keith Woodruff
McKinney-Vento Program Supervisor



Vivian Rogers Decker
Homeless Student Stability Education Program Supervisor



Jill Kawulok
Program Specialist | ARP-HCY



Melissa Rilette-Burnce
McKinney-Vento Training Supervisor



Lydia Lemon
McKinney-Vento Administrative Assistant



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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Tribal Land Acknowledgement

We 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.



Our Goal

Our goal today is to guide and help you understand your role as a District McKinney-Vento Liaison.



McKinney-Vento The What and The Who



What is the 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.
- [Legislation, Regulations and Guidance -- Education for Homeless Children and Youths - Grants for State and Local Activities](#)

The Education Definition of Homeless

Who is Considered Homeless?



As Defined in the McKinney-Vento Act:

- Children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
 - *Fixed* (Stationary, permanent, not subject to change)
 - *Regular* (Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis)
 - *Adequate* (Lawfully and reasonably sufficient to meet physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment)
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason,
often referred to as Doubled up. (When sharing housing is a mutual decision for mutual benefit,
the McKinney-Vento Act does not apply.)



McKinney-Vento Definition Cont.

- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or a similar setting
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

Our State!



Washington State Data Trends

(As annually reported by OSPI to US Dept of Education)

2003-04: 8,141

2004-05: 12,274

2005-06: 13,942

2006-07: 16,853

2007-08: 18,670

2008-09: 20,780

2009-10: 21,826

2010-11: 26,049

2011-12: 27,390

2012-13: 30,609

2013-14: 32,539

2014-15: 35,511

2015-16: 39,127

2016-17: 40,934

2017-18: 40,365

2018-19: 39,972

2019-20: 36,685

2020-21: 32,931

2021-22: 37,614

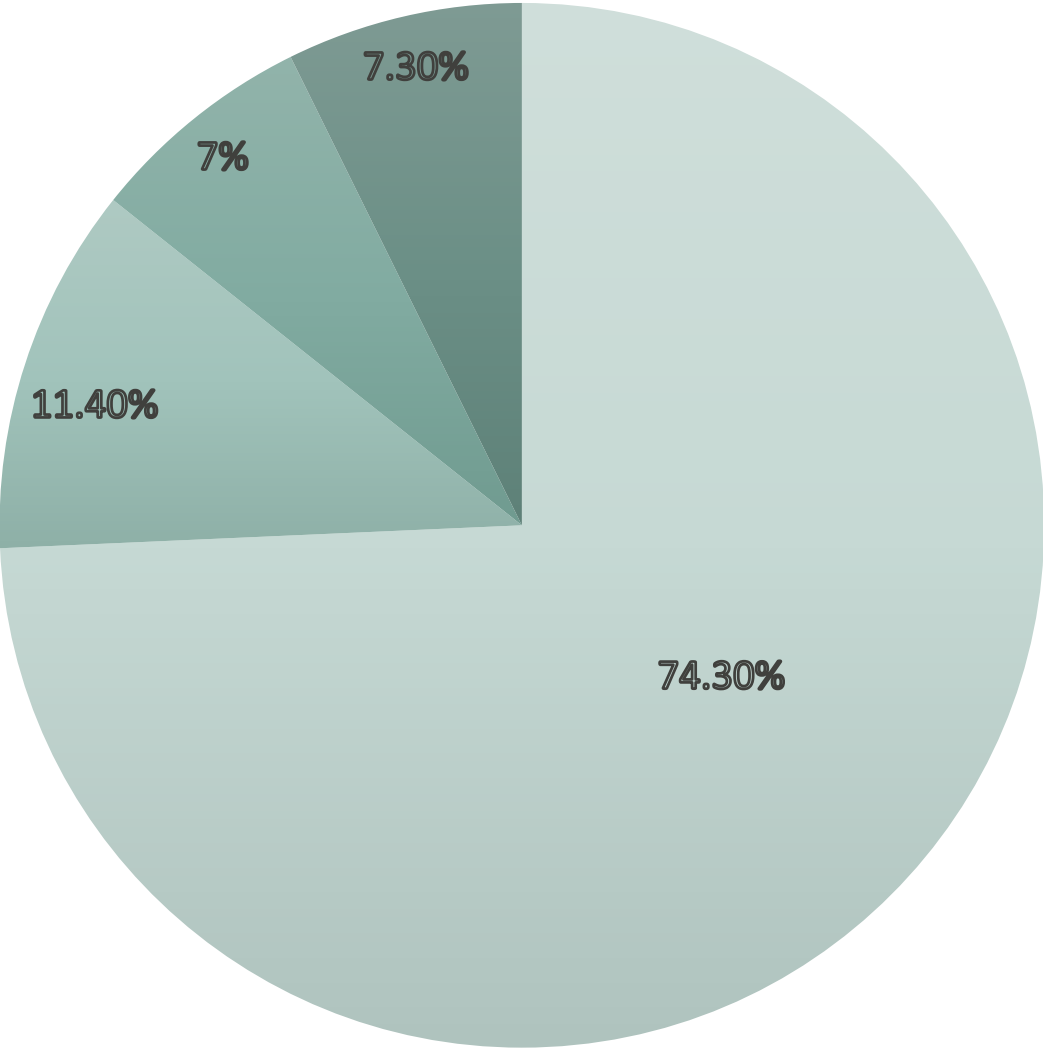


Housing Situations in Washington State

2021-2022 Academic School Year

Ages 3-5 and Grades K-12

2021-2022 OSPI Cedars Report

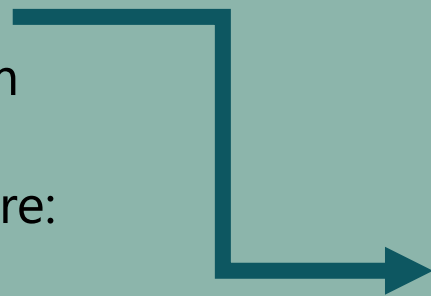


Provisions- What is Required?



Provisions- What is Required?

Local educational agencies must identify a liaison who will implement a system that includes the provisions listed here:



Immediate Enrollment

Districts shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth—is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation.



Tips on Facilitating Immediate Enrollment

- Train all school enrollment and administrative staff, counselors, school social workers, and school leaders on the legal requirements regarding immediate enrollment
- Develop short diagnostic assessments to place students immediately while awaiting complete academic records
- Establish school-based immunization clinics or other opportunities for on-site immunizations
- Expeditiously follow up on any special education and language assistance referrals or services
- While waiting on official school records, have informational conversations with parents and youths, as well as teachers and staff at the student's previous school to find out a little about the student so that academic services can be put in place immediately

School of Origin



School of origin refers to “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.”



School of origin applies to feeder schools only when there is a “*designated receiving school*” for students.



Transportation



The McKinney-Vento Act **requires** LEAs to provide transportation to the **school of origin** at the request of a parent or guardian or, for unaccompanied youth, at the McKinney-Vento liaison's request.



Lack of stable, safe, affordable housing and lack of transportation are barriers confronting advocates working to help students experiencing homelessness and their families. These problems exist in urban, suburban, and rural areas.



Ideas to Consider



Reimbursing Families or Youth for Transportation



Providing Gas Cards



Hiring Drivers and Private Drivers, and Purchasing Dedicated Vehicles for McKinney-Vento students



Transportation Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations

Best Practice/Recommendations

- Create a written transportation process to explain what steps are taken when requesting transportation for students experiencing homelessness
- Share written transportation process with faculty
- Publish and post transportation process on your website
- Include weather issues, security, ride share, timelines, contracts, and agreements within your district and agreements between districts
- [Transportation Toolkit](#)

Transportation Input



A transportation meeting is being planned and input from our McKinney-Vento Liaisons would be very helpful. If you would like to provide what is happening in your district regarding transportation, please email Melissa at Melissa.Riletteburnce@k12.wa.us.

Additional Educational Services

Children and youth experiencing homelessness have immediate access to multiple educational services for which they are eligible. These can include but are not limited to the following:

- Free and reduced lunch
- Medical/Health
- Extracurricular activities
- Credit Recovery

Fees and Fines

- For McKinney-Vento eligible students, the district must: “review and revise, policies to remove barriers to the identification of homeless children and youths, and the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youths in schools in the State, including barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.”
- If a student has fees or fines from a time when they were experiencing homelessness, but were not yet identified, those fees must be forgiven.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

Unaccompanied homeless youth are students experiencing homelessness who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.







The highest risk factor for youth homelessness is the lack of a high school diploma or GED. Youth without those basic education credentials are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness.

*A deeper look at Unaccompanied Youth will be provided through Canvas.
Everyone attending this training will receive the link.*

Higher Education



Access to Higher Education

Supporting access to higher education will help students experiencing homelessness break the cycle of poverty.

Possible Barriers

- Lack of financial resources
- Limited housing options
- Lack of adult connection and support

What You Can Do

- Verify their independent status ([Example Form](#))
- Create awareness in community and faculty
- Share housing resources
- Collaboration with career counselor
- Collaboration with outside partners

Important FAFSA Changes

The 2024-25 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will not be available until December 2023. The WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) will also be delayed until the FAFSA opens. Applications usually open October 1. The exact date applications will open this year has not yet been announced. The good news is this delay is due to positive changes in the application process:

- The FAFSA form will be shorter and less complex.
- More students will be eligible for federal Pell Grants, and the average Pell award will be larger.

[Washington Student Achievement Council \(WSAC\)](#)

[2024-2025 FAFSA Delayed: What You Need to Know - SchoolHouse Connection](#)

**Look for information in our weekly newsletter regarding dates.
These will be shared as soon as we know more.**



Early Learning



Early Learning for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Local liaisons must ensure that homeless children and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including HeadStart, Even Start, 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 will be provided through Canvas. Everyone attending this training will receive the link.

Schoolhouse Connection, [Early Childhood - SchoolHouse Connection](#)



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Tips on Identifying Early Learners

- **Ask** does this child have any delays or disabilities?
- **Ask** when talking with families, “Is there a child in your family that is under the age of 5?”
- **Explain and Refer** – Explain the services that can be offered and make appropriate referrals.
- Expediently **follow up** on any special education and language assistance referrals or services.





Students experiencing homelessness should have access to ALL things a housed student has access to.

What is My Role as a McKinney-Vento Liaison?



What is My Role as a Liaison?

Under the McKinney-Vento Act every local educational agency (LEA) must designate a liaison for homeless children and youth. Liaisons must be “able to carry out” ten specific duties.

What is My Role as a Liaison?

- Ensuring and Identifying
 - Ensuring that homeless children and youth are identified and enrolled in school and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.
- Participating
 - Participating in professional development and other technical assistance offered by the state.
- Confirming
 - Confirming school personnel receive professional development and other support.
- Guaranteeing
 - Guaranteeing that unaccompanied homeless youth are informed, and receive verification, of their status as independent students for college financial aid.
- Verifying, referring and Informing
 - Verifying that homeless children, youth, and families receive referrals to health, dental, mental health, housing, substance abuse, and other appropriate services. Inform the parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth of the dispute resolution process
- Disperse
 - Disperse public notice of McKinney-Vento rights in locations frequented by parents and youth, in a manner and form understandable to them. Order materials [here](#).

Do I Have the Capacity?

Often liaisons have multiple roles. It is not uncommon in smaller districts for the homeless liaison to be the special services director, an attendance liaison, a school counselor, a principal, a district secretary, or even the superintendent.

[Self-Capacity Assessment Tool Here](#)

Connect, Connect, Connect

- PLACE PUBLICATIONS WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE FREQUENT
- KNOW THE SIGNS TO LOOK FOR
- IDENTIFY, INFORM, REFER AND SUPPORT

Implementation



How Do We Implement?

We know what the law says, we know what our state demographics look like, but how do we put a process in place?



Identify and Connect



The Path From Identification to Support



Identify

Connect

Inform

Connect

Refer

**Support
and
Connect**



Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Services

- Information collected to determine eligibility may include but is not limited to the following:
 - Housing questionnaire
 - Word of mouth
 - Initial Enrollment Meeting
 - Community
 - Noticeable Signs

What Does This Look Like?

Noticeable Signs

- Missing the bus
- Hunger
- Tardiness
- Hygiene
- Unmet medical needs
- Sleeping in class
- Lack of supplies
- Social challenges



Ask!!

- Does the student have a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence?
- Where would the student be living if not there?
- How is the student getting to and from school?
- Is there a child in the family below the age of 5?

Dispute Resolution

Basic Steps

- Appeal made to Liaison
- Appeal made to District Superintendent or designated person
- Appeal made to OSPI

Every effort must be made to resolve at the local level before going to the state.

The district must provide a written explanation of its decision to the parent/guardian or to the unaccompanied youth. The written explanation must include a description of the students right to appeal the decision.

If a dispute arises over school selection, enrollment in a school, or whether the student meets the definition of homeless, the student needs to be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, until the dispute is final.

[OSPI Dispute resolution process](#)



Invite the youth and/or family to check-in with you

Invite families and youth to attend school-based activities

Place posters in schools and in community

Share that this is confidential information

Ask questions

Connect

while identifying...
Some helpful suggestions

Provide interpreters

Try not to use the word homeless some suggestions may include, housing insecure, highly mobile

Provide information in different formats

Use words like recommendations, options or choices

Take 2 minutes to think of a situation where you determined a student or youth qualified due to lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence? How did you connect with them?

(I will choose two people to share)



Inform, Refer and Connect



The Path From Identification to Support: Continued



Identify

Connect

Inform

Connect

Refer

Support
and
Connect



Inform

Discuss rights, options, choices and stability plan

- Immediate Enrollment
- Explain provisions; What Can be Provided
- Introduce to Building Point of Contacts
- Provide Contact Numbers and Availabilities
- Continue to Connect
- Inform Community *(Help inform community by disseminating public notice of McKinney-Vento rights in locations frequented by parents and youth)*



Refer

- Refer and Request Transportation
- Notify Nutrition Services
- Contact Outside Agencies Together
- Collaborate with Building Point of Contact
- Continue to Connect



A large, vibrant yellow sunflower is the central focus, set against a soft, golden background of a sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, hazy glow. In the foreground, the green stem and leaves of the sunflower are visible, along with some blurred, feathery plants to the left. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

Support and Connect



The Path From Identification to Support: Completed



Identify

Connect

Inform

Connect

Refer

**Support
and
Connect**





Think about supports you offer in your district and community.

Write them in the chat box.



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You Have Help!

- Provide Training to ALL Staff
- Identify Building Point of Contact at each school



What is a Building Point of Contact?

Lead efforts to identify students and families experiencing homelessness at the school level

Ensure students that qualify for McKinney-Vento services are connected to their district liaison

Provide building-level supports to students and families experiencing homelessness

Examples of Building Points of Contact

- Administrators
- Counselors
- Registrars and clerical staff
- Family outreach and engagement coordinators
- School social workers

Every school must establish a building point of contact who is:

- Appointed by the principal
- Training by the district McKinney-Vento liaison

Washington is currently the only state where a Building Point of Contact is required by law.

"Points of contact... are responsible for

- Help to identify homeless and unaccompanied youth and
- Connecting them with the school district's **[McKinney-Vento]** liaison for students experiencing homelessness"



Helping Hands Across our State

295 School Districts = 295 School District Liaisons

If you are new or job duties have been assigned to someone else, please be sure to update your contact information on the [OSPI website](#).





Words of Advice

Special Guest, Marilee Hill-Anderson

Be the Change



Top Take-Aways



POINT 1

How to Identify

POINT 2

How to Connect

POINT 3

Who to Refer

POINT 4

How to Support



A Look at Day 2!

- **Funding**
- **Attendance**
- **Special Education**



OSPI Resources

- Technical Assistance homelessed@k12.wa.us
- [OSPI Homeless Education Team](#)
 - Melinda.Dyer@K12.wa.us
 - Keith.Woodruff@k12.wa.us
 - Vivian.RogersDecker@k12.wa.us
 - Jill.kawulok@k12.wa.us
 - Melissa.Riletteburnce@K12.wa.us
 - Lydia.Lemon@k12.wa.us
- [OSPI Homeless Education Website](#)
- [Update or Edit Liaison Contact Information](#)
- [Posters and Brochures](#)
- [Grant Information](#)
- [Dispute Resolution, Transportation Tool Kit and Sample Forms](#)



Additional Federal and State Resource Links

- [SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [NAEHCY Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Unaccompanied Youth - SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Delayed FAFSA Information, Schoolhouse Connection](#)
- [Sample Form Letter- Unaccompanied Youth Status, Schoolhouse Connection](#)
- [Data Profiles- Schoolhouse Connection and Michigan State](#)
- [HSSP, Washington Department of Commerce](#)
- [WA Coordinated Entry Sites](#)
- [Washington State Achievement Council](#) h





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