



Serving Specific Student & Family Populations

August 16th, 2023

10:00am – 12:00pm

Training Session 4 of 4





Samie Iverson
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Strategy



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Tribal Land Acknowledgement

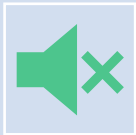
We would like to acknowledge the Indigenous people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and who still inhabit the area today.

Building Changes is on the land of the Duwamish, Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla People.





Please update your name as it appears in pdEnroller for clock hour attendance.



Mute when not speaking, bio breaks as needed, and take care of yourself! Live transcript available.



Use the "reactions" buttons, raise your hand during Q&As, and add questions to the chat as they arise.



Vision

Mission

Values



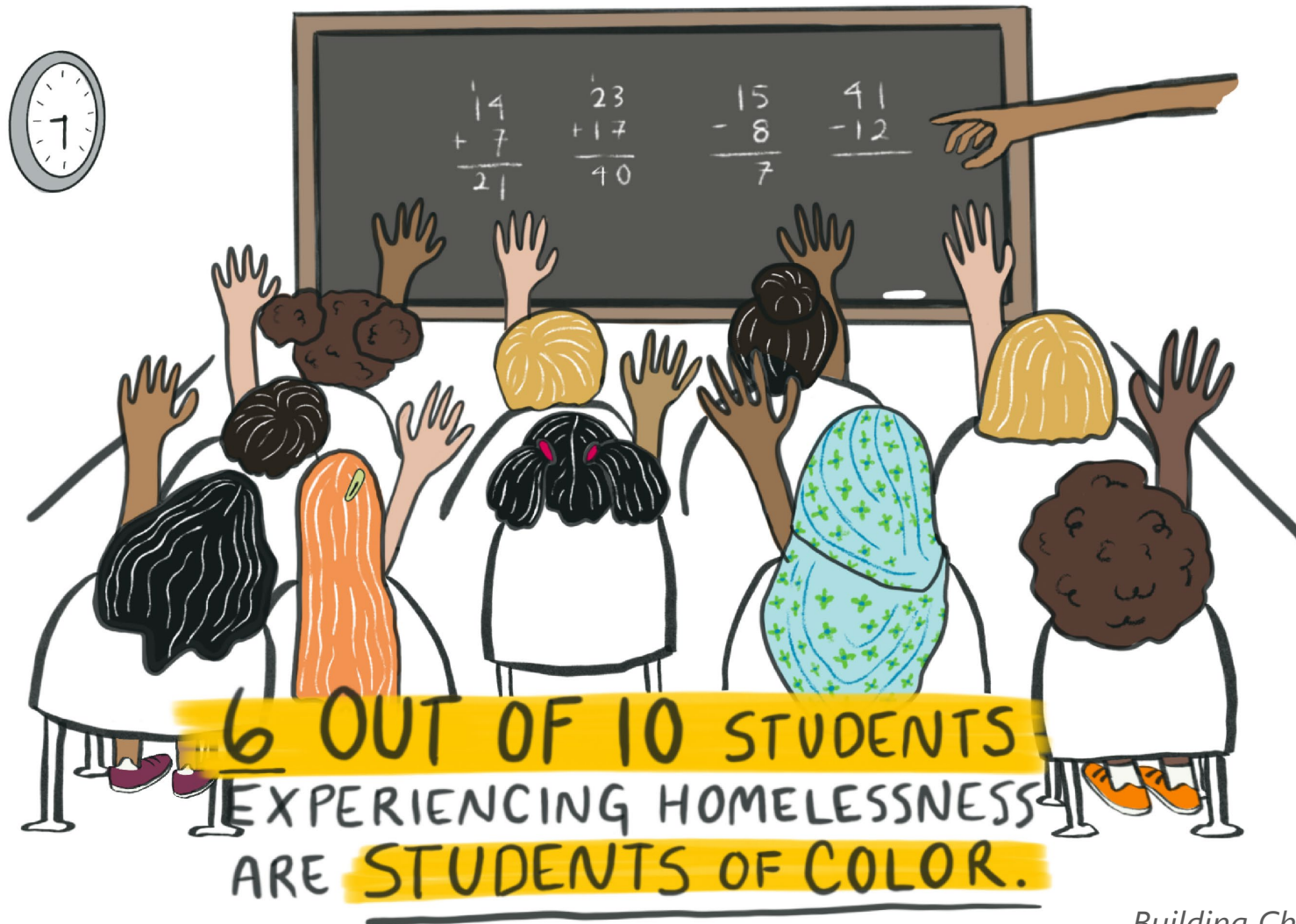
**BUILDING
CHANGES**

Communities thrive when people have safe and stable housing and can equitably access and use services.

Building Changes advances equitable responses to homelessness in Washington State, with a focus on children, youth, and families and the systems that serve them.

- Equity
- Partnerships
- People
- Integrity





Building Changes, 2019



BC's Education Team

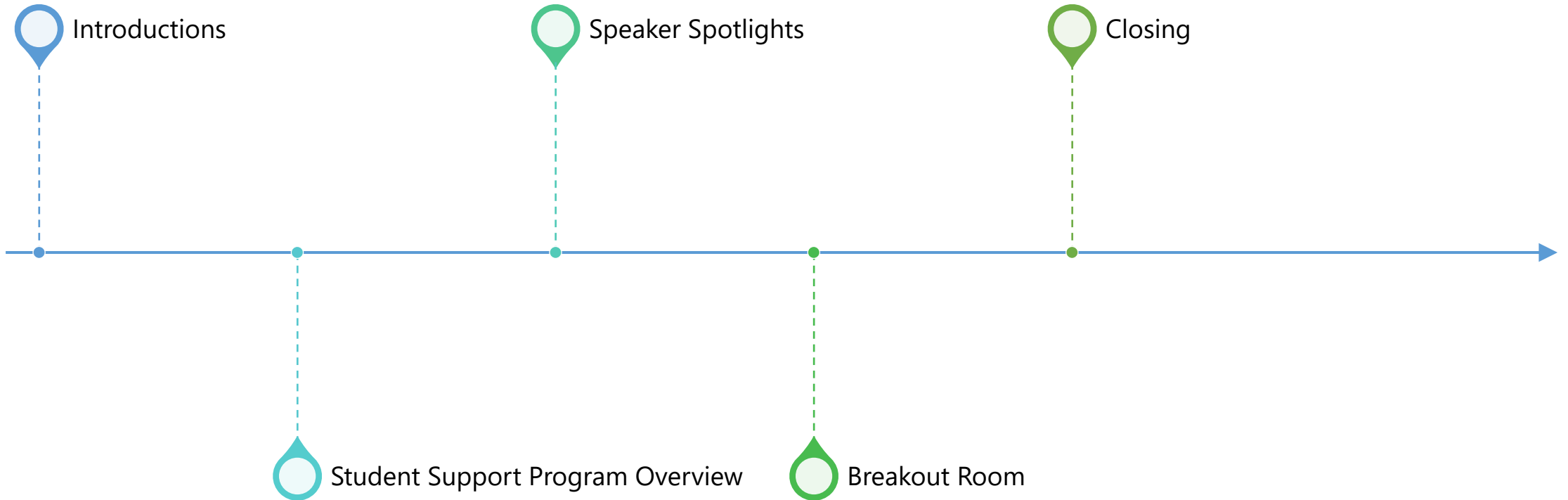
Our Work with OSPI

Building Changes explores how school and housing systems interact with one another to serve students experiencing homelessness through our Education Team's work. We show up for students, encourage cross systems partnerships, and influence policies that shape on the ground practice.

OSPI and Building Changes have partnered, with the help of ARP funds, to provide training for McKinney-Vento school staff and community-based organizations serving students experiencing homelessness. We intend to offer 7 trainings (each one will occur 4 times) through September 2023. This partnership will offer content, tools, and peer networking opportunities to help those supporting students experiencing homelessness across our state.



Agenda



Objectives



Participants will leave with understanding of programs and resources available to meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness who may also qualify for other student support services such as Head Start/ECEAP, ELL, SPED, 504, and CTE. .



Attendees will have a deeper understand of school district student support categories and services



Participants will learn the power of coalition building.



Attendees will have the opportunity to network and strategize with colleagues across the state.



Participants will hear from speakers on how they are serving specific student populations.



"Trees" by Christian Paige

Learn more at degreesofchange.org. Explore more from Christian Paige at christianpaige.com and Blu Room Creative at bluroomcreative.com. Video link for Captions: <https://youtu.be/Q7lZZmrxff8?feature=shared>

What is McKinney Vento?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth.

The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the barriers that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

- *McKinney-Vento programs are built to meet the needs of their students and look different in every community.*
- *This work is dynamic, unpredictable, and requires a wide range of skills.*
- *It takes a village to serve this student population.*
- *Staffing does not always match up with the need.*
- *This is an underfunded mandate.*

[Building Changes MKV Deeper Dive Training Video](#)

Who is eligible?

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

The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition.



FIXED:

Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change



REGULAR:

Used on a predictable, or consistent basis (e.g. nightly)



ADEQUATE:

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



ASK:

Can the student go to the same place (*FIXED*) every night (*REGULAR*) to sleep in a safe and sufficient space (*ADEQUATE*)

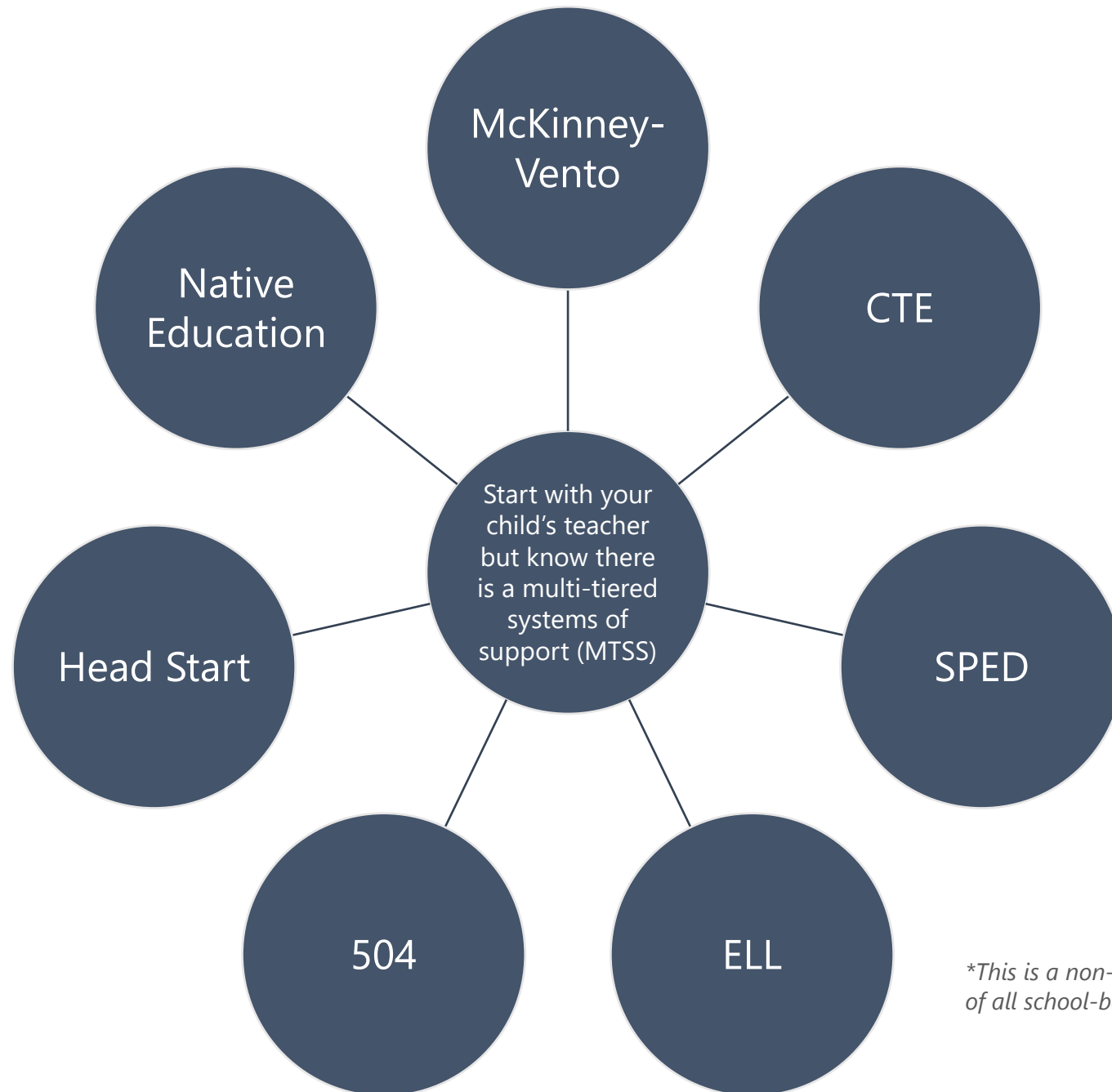
Connecting Students & Families to Homeless Support Services



Families can fill out a Student Housing Questionnaire form at school, district office, or over the phone with MKV staff.

McKinney-Vento staff will conduct an intake to gather information on student and family need.

Identification, enrollment, transportation, provisions of support provided.



**This is a non-exhaustive list of all school-based programs*

Speaker Spotlight 1

Jason LaFontaine

Director

PSESD Native American
Education Program



**Native American
Education Program**



psestd
excellence & equity in education
Puget Sound Educational Service District



Head Start

- ECEAP (pronounced "E-Cap") is the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program funded by Washington State for children 3 and 4.
- Head Start is funded by the federal government for children ages 3 and 4 and, in some locations, pregnant women and children birth to age 3.
- Head Start Family Service staff can work closely with McKinney-Vento liaisons and homeless services and housing partners to promote collaboration and stability.
- Head Start programs that are administered by local educational agencies (LEAs) are considered preschools under the McKinney-Vento Act, and are subject to the requirements of the Act.

McKinney-Vento Liaison

- Head Start and Early Head Start programs must prioritize children experiencing homelessness for enrollment, which often means that children experiencing homelessness or foster care are placed at the top of the waiting list.
- Also, Head Start and Early Head Start programs can reserve up to three percent of their funded capacity for children experiencing homelessness or in foster care.
- If your local Head Start programs are full, assist families to apply and to indicate that they are experiencing homelessness, so they may go to the top of the waitlist or fill one of these reserved spaces.

Special Education (SPED)

- Special education is specially designed instruction that addresses the unique needs of a student eligible to receive special education services.
- Special education is provided at no cost to parents and includes the related services a student needs to access their educational program.
- If the school registrar thinks that the student may be homeless or have an IEP, they should contact the local liaison and/ or special education coordinator so that these administrators can follow up to get the student's records and arrange appropriate services to minimize educational disruption.

McKinney-Vento Liaison

- As a best practice, schools should invite local liaisons to IEP meetings for students experiencing homelessness; the local liaison can participate in the meeting, send a designee, help the parent participate by providing transportation or other resources, provide a written report to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, or share comments and impressions orally with other IEP team members.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to all other students, according to the student's needs.
- Liaison and special education coordinator to review LEA data on homeless children and youth with disabilities on an annual basis to identify needs and strategies to address the needs.

Section 504

- Requires public schools to provide a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to every student with a disability—regardless of the nature or severity of the disability.
- Under Section 504, schools must provide students with disabilities the accommodations, aids, and services they need to access and benefit from education equally with their peers.

McKinney-Vento Liaison

- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to all other students, according to the student's needs.
- McKinney-Vento training for all, navigating the intersections of the McKinney-Vento Act and Section 504 coordinators on an annual basis.
- Receive accommodations so students can fully participate in the educational services provided to all other students, according to the student's needs.

IEP / 504 Tip Sheet

WHICH DOES MY CHILD NEED?

empoweredtoconnect.org



IEP

Must have 1 of 13 specific disabilities, outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Must be created by an IEP Team, which includes specific school staff along with parents

Includes special education services (e.g. SPED teachers,) related services (e.g. Transportation, Speech Therapy), and accommodations (e.g. extended time on a test), and gives the child specific goals

Must be reviewed yearly, has strict criteria

504

Can be used for any disability that significantly impacts your child's functioning

Can be created by a broader category of school staff, in collaboration with parents

Includes accommodations and modifications (such as extended time on a test, or an adjustment to seating), but does not specify goals that are different from the general education curriculum

Broader category that varies from school to school

Other Resources:

- The Arc
 - [Chapters across WA](#)
 - [Reference Sheet - Supporting youth with developmental disabilities who are experiencing homelessness](#)

Speaker Spotlight 2

Mahado Abdi

Youth Program Lead

Nicole Barker

Director of Youth Programs

Haidar Al-Abedi

Pathways to Graduation Case Manager

[Open Doors Website](#)

[Referral Form](#)



BREAK



Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- Promotes and supports locally-based middle and high school programs that provide 21st century, academic and technical skills for all students.
- Collaborate across CTE and homeless education programs at the state and local levels to address common barriers for learners experiencing homelessness.

[21st Century Act Signed into Law](#)

[SHC: CTE & Students Exp. Homelessness](#)

[NCHE - Making Good on the Promise of CTE](#)

McKinney-Vento Liaison

- This role ensures that students can enroll, attend classes, and fully participate in all school activities.
- The MKV liaison understands the rights and services provided to children and youth experiencing homelessness through the McKinney Vento Act and other federal and state laws and programs.
- Ensures fee's, fine's, deadline are waived to increase access and participation of eligible students.

English Language Learner (ELL)

- English-language learners, or ELLs, are students who are unable to communicate fluently or learn effectively in English, who often come from non-English-speaking homes and backgrounds, and who typically require specialized or modified instruction in both the English language and in their academic courses.
- English language learners (ELLs) are a diverse population of students who are learning English in school. They come from numerous cultural and economic backgrounds

[WA Language Access Bill](#)
[Migrant Education Program](#)

McKinney-Vento Liaison

- This role ensures that students can enroll, attend classes, and fully participate in all school activities.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to all other students, according to the student's needs.
- Contact and communicate with ELL or migrant families (in the native language when necessary) whose children may be eligible for and in need of the educational services provided by the McKinney Vento Act.

Migrant & Immigrant Families Experiencing Homelessness

"Immigrant and migrant children and youth are eligible for all McKinney-Vento services, including free school meals, if they lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Immigration or documentation status does not affect McKinney-Vento eligibility."

- [SchoolHouse Connection Brief](#)

Example -

- A newcomer refugee family is staying in a hotel in Federal Way for multiple weeks, before their permanent address through a resettlement agency is available in Highline.
- They qualify to be enrolled under MKV in the school where their permanent address will be.
- We know that for refugee children being in school can be a helpful stability after the trauma of becoming a refugee.

[International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#) - Education Partnerships in Seattle Area & Spokane

Speaker Spotlight 3

Tigest Coleman

Senior Training Officer

[Switchboard Website](#)

[About Switchboard Video](#)



Speaker Spotlight 4

Stephanie Greene

Senior Drop-In Coordinator

Oasis Youth Center



Oasis Youth Center

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth

Stephanie Greene
Senior Drop-In Coordinator

Oasis Youth Center

Who are we?

OASIS
YOUTH CENTER WHERE QUEER YOUTH THRIVE

OASIS HISTORY

- Oasis was founded in 1985 by a group of concerned community members who wanted to help LGBTQ youth cope with discrimination and find support
- Oasis was supported by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department until it became fiscally sponsored by PCAF
- Oasis officially “came out” in 2014 when it co-located with the Rainbow Center

Who are we at Oasis?

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Oasis Youth Center is a drop-in, resource and support center for queer and questioning youth ages 11-24
- Oasis programming spans the advocacy, prevention, and leadership development continuum
- The main Oasis center is located in Downtown Tacoma
 - Satellite location in Lakewood - creating one in Puyallup
- 24/7 Emergency Line: 253-988-2108

Who are we? Cont'd

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Engaging and diverse programming & events
- Peer and adult support
- Gender-affirming resources
- Mental Health Vouchers and Referrals
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Bus tickets
- Referrals to housing*, education, and employment programs, and legal resources

Partnering with Schools, Community Orgs...

- Providing trainings to staff & faculty
 - › Who Oasis is and what we do
 - › LGBTQ+ Competency
 - › Allyship and how to support LGBTQ+ students
 - › Including youth voice
- Attending community events and organizational meetings
 - › School partners, Community Organizations

Takeaways: What can you do to help?

- Be a safe, patient, understanding, and supportive adult.
 - › Take time to listen and validate.
- Create a (physically, mentally, emotionally) safe space for youth.
- Be an active ally, continue to learn, support and advocate.
 - › Share info about Oasis, Rainbow Center, and your local LGBTQ+ centers.



Ways to get connected!

[Oasisyouthcenter.org](https://oasisyouthcenter.org)

Oasis@oasisyouthcenter.org

[Information & Outreach Materials](#)

253-671-2838



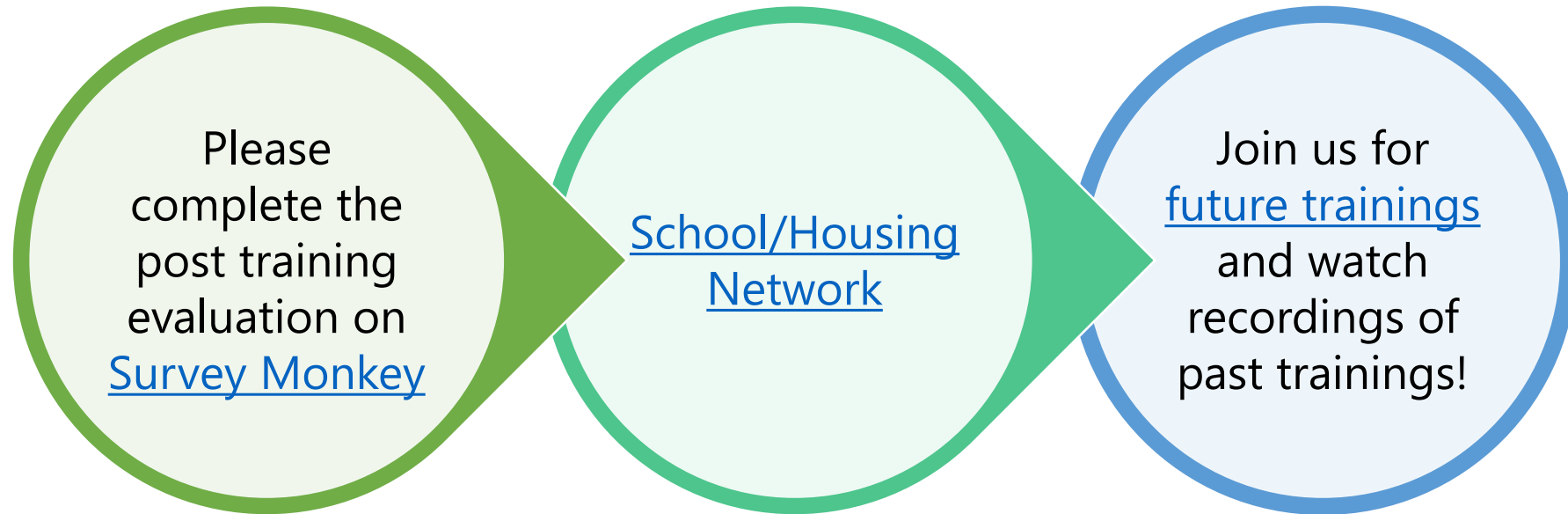


Breakout room activity

Guiding Questions:

- What is something that you can do in your role to better support specific student and family populations that may be experiencing homelessness?
- Do you have any advice to give others in the room about working with a specific student population?

In Closing...



- For Clock Hours, please complete the survey through pdEnroller



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
homelessed@k12.wa.us



**BUILDING
CHANGES**

Connect with us!

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