



It Starts with Identification: Supporting Students with Unstable Housing

July 19, 2022





Welcome from the California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)



About the HETAC

The Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)

- Is funded by the California Department of Education to serve as the state's homeless education technical assistance center
- Is operated jointly by the Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and San Diego County Offices of Education.

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It Starts With Identification: Supporting Students With Unstable Housing

Compassionate Ed Systems, National Center for Youth Law

July 19, 2022

What will be covered?

1

Refresher: McKinney-Vento Definition

2

Identification:
The Why, Who, What, When, Where & Hows

3

The Importance of Data

Defining Homelessness

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.



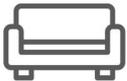
Shelters/Transitional Housing

Domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, transitional living programs, housing paid for by programs/vouchers, etc.



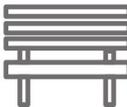
Hotels/Motels

Staying in motels/hotels due to lack of adequate alternatives, regardless of who pays for the motel/hotel room.



Staying with others

Living/staying with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. This can be doubled and even tripled up.



Unsheltered

Staying in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus/train stations, or anything that is not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

We want to hear from you!

Please join us on our Jam Board to answer the following question:

What challenges are you experiencing when it comes to identifying students and families?

Please click the link provided in the chat.

The Why.

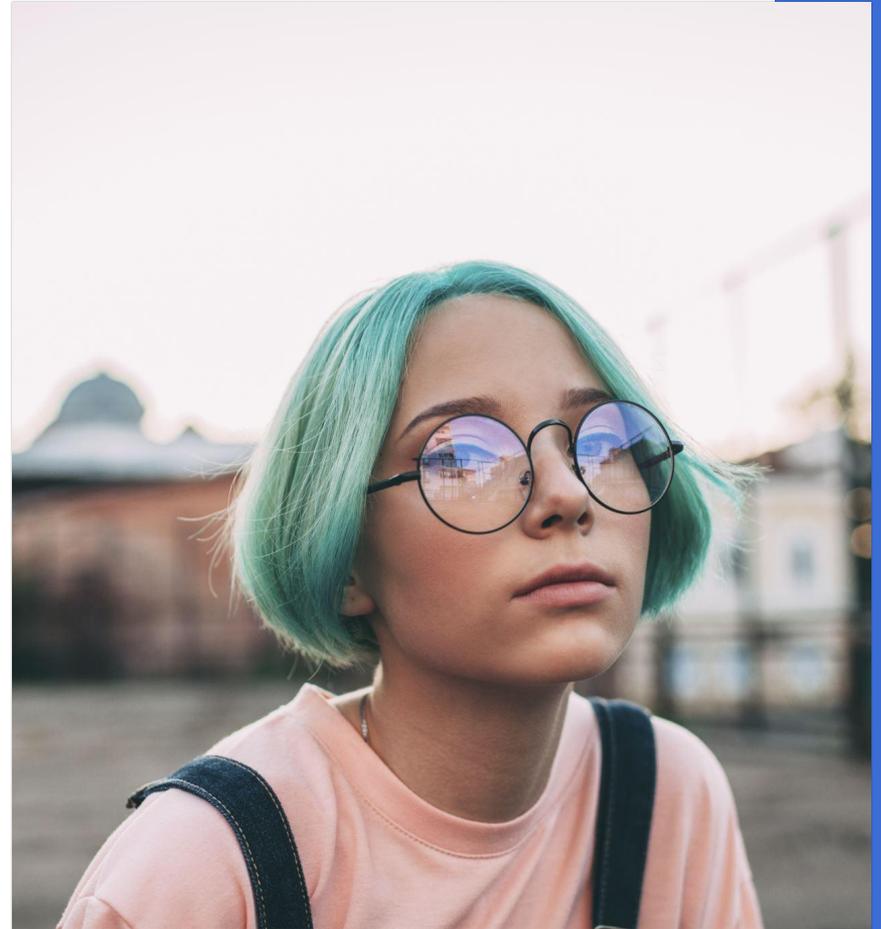


“The liaison helped me get through the situation I was in. He made me realize there is people out there who care and want to help students in my situation. ”

-DG

“We were given a voice and I think it made all the change at school because it helped us better communicate with our staff.”

-TS



EVERY STUDENT DESERVES EVERY
OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED



What do we need?

Housing questionnaire

- Districts and charter schools can/should modify forms to better meet the needs of their specific population
- Have the document in multiple languages
- Keep in mind the language used, defining categories clearly

Housing Questionnaire for

Student Last Name	First	Middle

Name of School: _____

The information provided below will help the LEA determine what services you and/or your child may be eligible to receive. This could include additional educational services through Title I, Part A and/or the federal McKinney-Vento Assistance Act. The information provided on this form will be kept confidential and only shared with appropriate school district and site staff.

Presently, are you and/or your family living in any of the following situations?

- Staying in a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter) or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer
- Sharing housing with other(s) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, lack of adequate housing, or similar reason
- Living in a car, park, campground, abandoned building, or other inadequate accommodations (i.e. lack of water, electricity, or heat)
- Temporarily living in a motel or hotel due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, or similar reason
- Living in a single-home residence that is permanent

I am a student under the age of 18 and living apart from parent(s) or guardian

- Yes No

The undersigned parent/guardian certifies that the information provided above is correct and accurate.

Print Parent/Guardian Name	Signature	Date

Phone Number	Street Address	City	State	Zip

Where to find this form:

- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/index.asp>

Online Registration

How would this look if registration was online only?

The right to enroll immediately is one of the core protections of the Act.

Online enrollment can create its own barriers to enrollment that will disproportionately impact families experiencing homelessness including:

- Limited access to technology and connectivity,
- Enrollment barriers such as lack of information about the McKinney-Vento Act
- Lack of a pathway to enroll without documents
- Language barriers

Online Registration Strategies

- Include information on website about MV rights and enrollment (AB 27)
 - **Prominently** on school pages/ home pages
 - Include a list of LEA liaisons or site designees and **contact information**
 - Use neutral terms such as “staying temporarily”, “staying in someone else’s home” or “in transition” rather than homeless
- Incorporate your **housing questionnaire** as part of the required steps
 - Have an easily accessible pathway for students to enroll without parent or guardian
 - Have an easily accessible pathway for students to enroll without required documents
- Keep instructions brief and simple (reading level less than high school).
 - In additional languages
- Streamline initial enrollment process for quick completion even with slow or limited data and **ensure that the website is mobile device friendly**
- Have alternatives to online enrollment
- **Be prepared to support your families**

Flyers

- Know your rights
- Have each flyer in multiple languages
- Be sure to include contact information



• In a shelter (family, domestic violence, or youth shelter or transitional living program)

• In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing

• In an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the streets

You can enroll in school immediately even without the documents normally required for enrollment, such as:

- Proof of residency
- Immunization records or other required health records
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

Your child may:

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which he/she is eligible.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin if you request it.
- Continue to attend the school in which he/she was last enrolled even if you have moved away from that school's attendance area.
- Qualify automatically for school nutrition programs.

Your responsibilities are to:

- Make sure your child gets to school on time and ready to learn.
- Stay informed of school rules, regulations, and activities.
- Contact the homeless liaison for assistance in removing barriers to your child's education.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences, Back-to-School Nights, and other school-related activities.

It is not a crime to live in one of the above situations and schools are here to assist you and your children with enrollment and appropriate services. This information will not be shared outside of the educational entity.

For questions about enrolling in school or for assistance with school enrollment, contact:

- Your local school district homeless liaison:
- Your county homeless liaison:
- Your homeless state coordinator:
Leanne Wheeler
State Coordinator
California Department of Education
1475 N Street, Suite 620A

Is your family sleeping at a shelter, in a car, or in another temporary living situation? Do you have a high school student at Monterey, Seaside, Marina or Central Coast High School?

Are you a high school student living on your own, or not with your parent or legal guardian?

Are you a homeless or unaccompanied youth who wants to be in high school but needs help getting there?

There is support out there for you or your child!

National Center for Youth Law is an organization that has partnered with Monterey Peninsula Unified School District to support students in transitional living situations succeed in high school, graduate, and have a plan for their future.

If you would like to participate or want more information, please contact:

Yvette Gomez, 831-345-9725, ygomez@youthlaw.org (English, Spanish)

Education Liaison, National Center for Youth Law

Seaside High School and Marina High School

Kayla Antes, 831-345-9502, kantes@youthlaw.org (English)

Education Liaison, National Center for Youth Law

Monterey High School and Central Coast High School



National Center for Youth Law

Flyers

- Available services and resources
- Have each flyer in multiple languages
- Be sure to include contact information



[insert county] County Office of Education
Homeless Children and Youth Services Program

Has Your Housing Changed?

Welcome back parents and guardians,

After a time away from school our focus often shifts to reestablishing routines and getting back into the swing of things. We want to help! If you have recently had a housing change, please let us know. This information helps us to:

- ❖ Know how we might best support your student during changes.
- ❖ Keep our records up to date – including emergency contacts.
- ❖ Ensure that if your change includes any of the following, you have access to the services that may be available to you.
 - Housing with other(s) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, lack of adequate housing, or similar reason
 - Temporarily living in a motel or hotel due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, or similar reason
 - Being a student under the age of 18 and living apart from parent(s) or guardian
 - Staying in a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter) or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer
 - Living in a car, park, campground, abandoned building, or other inadequate accommodations (i.e., lack of water, electricity, or heat)

Please do not let your student miss out on opportunities that may be available for them. Reach out to your registrar or school secretary today to find out how the McKinney-Vento program provisions may help to ensure that you have what you need to help your child succeed in school!

Sincerely,

Homeless Liaison

[insert contact information]

Additional Templates & Forms

→ Mid-year check in

→ End of year letter

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [School House Connection Identification Resource](#)
- [OSP Resource Summary](#)

The How: Getting Started

Creating a Plan: Success Requires Ongoing Monitoring

Month(s)	Activities
July/August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a housing questionnaire in the school enrollment process, including via online registration and as part of the registration/walk-through/residency verification process. • Make follow-up phone calls to students flagged for McKinney-Vento eligibility on housing questionnaires if more information is needed. • Update local liaison contact information on homeless education awareness materials (posters, flyers, brochures, etc.) and district and school websites. • Post “You Can Enroll in School Posters” at all school sites and in relevant places throughout the community; share posters in English and other languages, as needed to support local student populations.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide homeless education training for all district, charter, and school site local liaisons and other relevant district and school staff. • Ensure that program record 191 is flagged in CALPADS (California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System) for all McKinney-Vento students.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for National Homeless Youth Awareness Month (November).
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information and make presentations throughout the district and community for National Homeless Youth Awareness Month.
December/January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send the housing questionnaire home with all students, reminding families to update their emergency contact information and address and inform the school if their housing situation has changed.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a housing questionnaire and homeless education information as part of the enrollment process for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. • Provide another homeless education training for all district, charter, and school site local liaisons and other relevant district and school staff to refresh understanding and ensure that new staff are trained.
March/April/May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review homeless education data in CALPADS for the current school year and reach out to schools with low McKinney-Vento identification numbers.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send an end-of-year letter (see sample letter) to McKinney-Vento families to remind them of whom to contact next school year if they need assistance. • Share information with families about summer resources, including free meals and other programming available in the community.

Timing: When to screen?

Registration/Enrollment



July/August

The first round of housing questionnaires should go out to families during the enrollment process and be completed every year.

Mid-Year



January

Things may have changed over the holidays, sending out a mid-year “has your housing change?” form can help to identify these families.

End of Year



May/June

End of year letters can help inform families of their rights and let them know they may still qualify for the following school year.

The Who: The Importance of Engagement

Identification is a team effort!



Position Specific Training



Registrar/Office staff

- How to identify families upon enrollment/registration
- How to fill out housing questionnaire
- Right to immediate enrollment
- School of origin



Counselors

- AB 1806 credit requirements
- School of origin
- Financial aid



Teachers

- What to look out for
- What questions to ask
- Who is the liaison

Additional Resources:

- [Ed Rights for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Common Signs of Homelessness](#)
- [Additional Resources for Educators](#)



Common Signs of Homelessness

Note: While these are considered common signs, please recognize that they only offer general guidance. There is significant variability within the school-age homeless population. Individual students may differ significantly from the following general characteristics.

Lack of Educational Continuity

- Attendance at many different schools
- Missing records needed to enroll
- Inability to pay fees
- Gaps in skill development
- Mistaken assessment of abilities
- Poor organizational skills
- Poor ability to conceptualize

Poor Health/Nutrition

- Missing immunizations & medical records
- Unmet medical & dental needs
- Respiratory problems
- Skin rashes
- Chronic hunger or food hoarding
- Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)

Transportation & Attendance Problems

- Erratic attendance and tardiness
- Numerous absences
- Lack of participation in afterschool activities
- Lack of participation in field trips
- Inability to contact parents

Poor Hygiene

- Lacking shower facilities/washers, etc.
- Wearing clothes several days
- Inconsistent grooming

Lack of Personal Space After School

- Consistent lack of preparation for school
- Incomplete or missing homework

- Unable to complete special projects
- Lacking basic school supplies
- Loss of books and supplies on regular basis
- Elevated concern for safety of belongings

Social and Behavioral Concerns

- A marked change in behavior
- Poor/short attention span
- Poor self-esteem
- Extreme shyness
- Unwilling to form relationships with peers & teachers
- Difficulty socializing at recess or lunch periods
- Difficulty trusting people
- Aggression
- "Old" beyond years
- Overly protective of parents
- Clinging behavior
- Developmental delays
- Fear of abandonment
- School phobia (afraid to leave parent)
- Anxiety, especially late in the school day

Reactions or Statements by Parents, Guardians, or Students

- Exhibiting anger or embarrassment when asked about current address
- Avoidance of questions related to current address
- Statements about staying with grandparents, other relatives, friends, or in motels & campgrounds
- Statements such as:
 - "I don't remember the name of the last school."
 - "We've been moving around a lot."
 - "Our address is new; I can't remember it."
 - "We're staying with relatives until we get settled."
 - "We're going through a bad time right now."

Adapted from flyers developed by the Illinois & Pennsylvania Departments of Education. For more information on homeless education, visit the National Center for Homeless Education website at: [nche.edu](https://www.nche.edu)

SIGNS OF POTENTIAL HOMELESSNESS IN A VIRTUAL LEARNING WORLD



Frequent changes in the background of where the student is working; the student appears to be changing location frequently



Many different people in the background, beyond just the student's immediate family



Background in a motel/hotel, outdoors, or public areas



Student/parent unreachable for periods of time



Unwilling to turn on camera; inconsistent internet.

For More Information: <https://bit.ly/2CMY8wY>



Protecting Confidentiality

- Should be clear that the intention is:
 - to request only the information needed to determine eligibility
 - That sensitive information will be protected
 - That schools don't use MV information to report to any external agencies, i.e. CPS or Immigration
- Information about living situation of a student experiencing homelessness is considered an education record and must be provided applicable confidentiality protections. It is not deemed directory information.
 - 42 USC 11432(g)(3)(G)
- Terminology
- Discreet and private conversations

Getting The Word Out: Where to Post?



Resource Webpage

Use your website as an additional opportunity to empower families with information. Include services and resources offered on campuses, liaison contact information, their rights, and community-based programs/resources.

Places to Post

- ★ Front office
- ★ Resource centers
- ★ Newsletters
- ★ On your website
- ★ Bulletin Boards
- ★ Sent home with grade reports
- ★ Sent home with permission slips

For Parents



Sam's Guide

This is a great place to look for any resource you may need in Monterey County.



Homeless/Foster Youth

If you are facing homelessness or challenges, please contact:

Carlos Diaz,

MPUSD Homeless Liaison

831-392-3928 cdiaz@mpusd.k12.ca.us

Carlos coordinates direct efforts to families in need that are identified under the KcKinney-Vento Program, a federal program used to determine those who qualify to receive assistance.



Monterey County WIC Program

- Nutrition Education and Health Information
- Breastfeeding Support
- Monthly Benefits for Healthy Food
- Referrals to Medical Providers and Community Services



How can we help?

We want to hear from you about what you would like to see featured on this website.

If you would like to provide feedback please complete this quick survey.



Care Solace

This service offered through MPUSD can help connect you to mental health services in the community and will help match you to the best fit for your insurance or financial situation.



Food Pantry List

For access to free food, clothes and household supplies, please visit this list of local resources



Workforce Development Board
Job Training and Resume and Application Support.



Shelter List

- Domestic Violence
- Emergency Shelters

Community Resources



Mental Health Services

- Community Mental Health Services/Two-Cent Counseling Services
- Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCHB)
- Care Solace (Coordination of services)



Resources for Guardians

- Guardians Guide
- Kinship Care/Relative Care
- Grandfamily Connection



Food Pantries

- Food Pantry List



Shelters

- Shelter List
- Emergency Shelter
- Shelter for Women and Families with Children



Displaced/Homeless

- Community Kitchen/Meals
- Transitional Housing
- Shelter Rental & Utility Assistance



Healthcare

- Low Cost/Free Clinics
- Mobile Health Clinic Info

MONDAY 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wedhart, 150 Beach Rd., Marina, CA 93923

Provides care for all patients in need.

THURSDAYS 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Walgrove, 1555 Fremont Blvd., Seaside

Provides care for all patients in need.

In bad weather, the clinic is open to see a limited number of patients. The clinic is closed on holidays.

Please Note: Due to decreased use because of the coronavirus shelter in place order, the mobile clinic will make only one stop each week, until further notice.



Alternative Healthcare and Selfcare

- Yoga
- Acupuncture Clinic
- Reiki Healing
- Mindfulness Apps and Lists
- Monthly Self-Care Calendar
- Have an online session.



Resources for Military Families

- Resource List



LGBTQ+ Resources

- Monterey County Businesses
- MPUSD Bullying Policy

Our Collective Expertise - Discussion

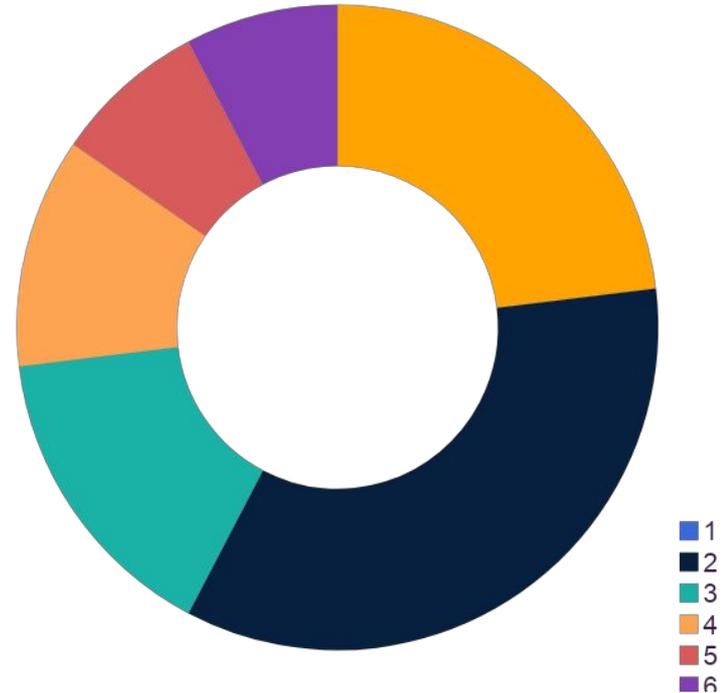
Please join us on our Jam Board to answer the following question:

What has worked well that you want to continue doing?

The link to the Jam Board is in the chat

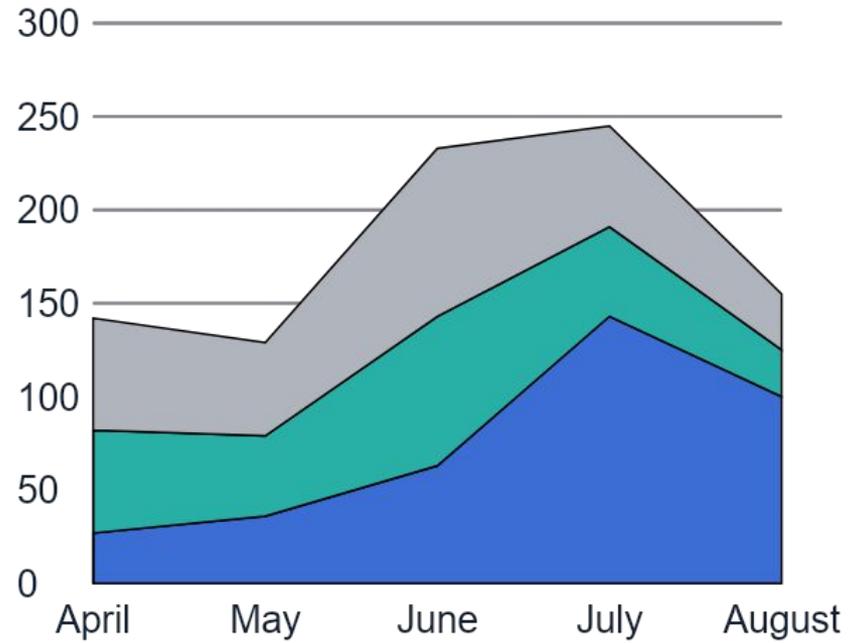
Importance of Data

- Percent of student population
- Dwelling type
- Historical addresses
- Tracking school of origin rights
- Closing out data each year



Data Tells a Story

- Services provided
- Trends
- Gaps in services/resources
- Location distribution



Thank You!

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