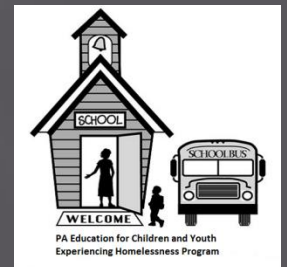


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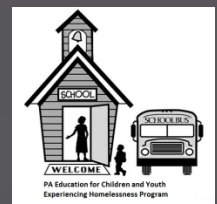
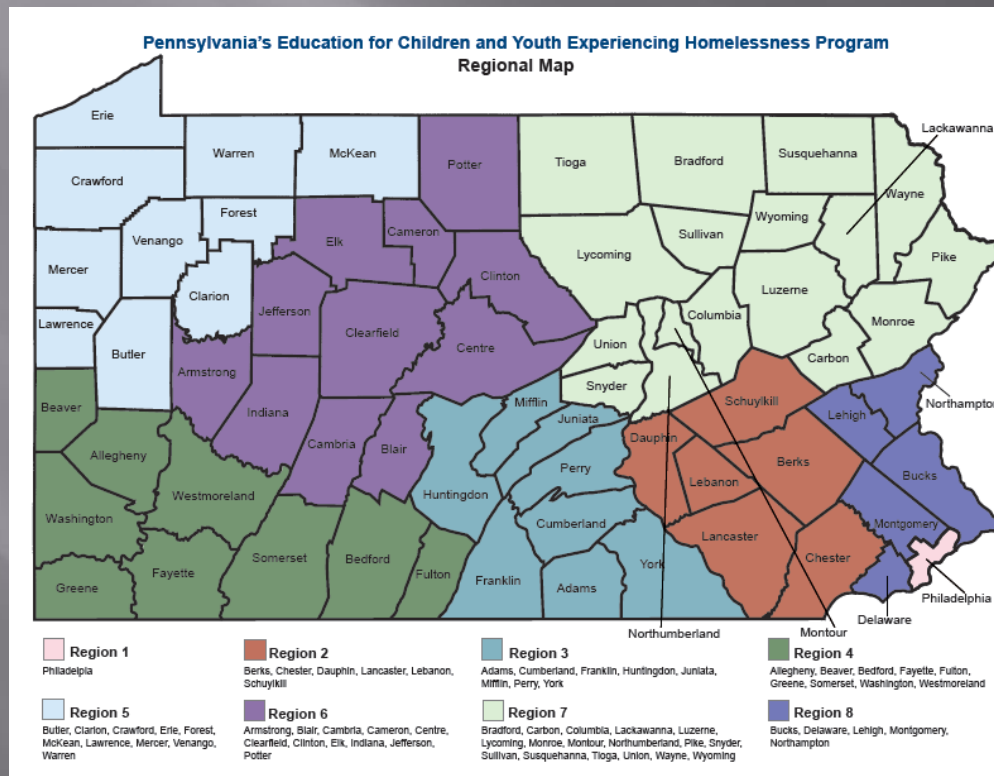
Children and Youth Experiencing
Homelessness Have the Right to a Free
Appropriate Public Education



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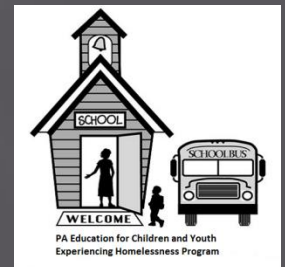
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The Scale of Homelessness

- ❖ 1, 504, 544 homeless children were enrolled in public schools during the 2017-2018 school year (National Center for Homeless Education).
- ❖ Children make up half of the homeless population nationwide
- ❖ 39,921 homeless children identified by ECYEH program in 2018-2019
- ❖ 3,378 homeless children identified in Region 7 (2018-2019)



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McKinney –Vento Homeless Act

- ❖ 2015 ESSA reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act originally enacted in 1987. New legislation signed by Barack Obama December 10, 2015
- ❖ Requires educational access, attendance, and success for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Provides states with funding to support statewide initiatives.
- ❖ PA ECYEH program covers 501 school districts, 29 intermediate units, 127 public charter schools, and 53 career-technical schools.
- ❖ Does not include private schools



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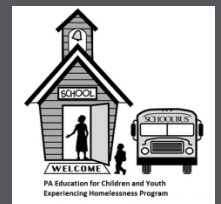
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Who is homeless?

❖ An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence

Includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing (doubled-up)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailers, or camping grounds
- Living in emergency shelters or transitional housing
- Unaccompanied Youth-Abandoned, Runaways
- Living in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings
- Migratory children (living in circumstances above)



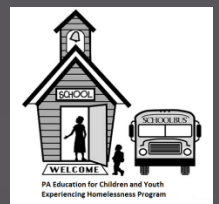
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How vulnerable are you to becoming homeless?

- ❖ Fire
- ❖ Flood
- ❖ Job Loss
- ❖ Eviction
- ❖ Domestic Violence
- ❖ Accident
- ❖ Illness



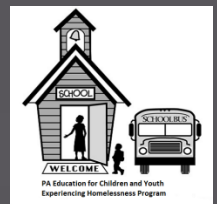
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Unaccompanied Youth

- ❖ Any child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- ❖ Includes runaways, children thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or separated from parents for any other reason
- ❖ Must fit the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless
- ❖ No age range specified (Upper range determined by state)
- ❖ Temporary surrogate parents must be assigned to unaccompanied youth to make special education decisions if the youth does not have an authorized person



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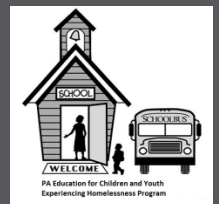
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Unaccompanied Youth

“The primary responsibility of the schools is to enroll and educate homeless children and youth in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, which neither authorizes, nor requires schools to make judgments about the validity of why a student is not living with a parent or guardian. Determinations of eligibility should be made on the student's nighttime living arrangement, not the circumstances that caused the student to leave home.”

~National Center for Homeless Education



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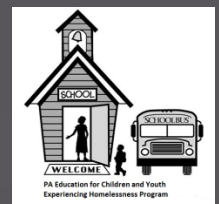
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Enrollment

Requires public schools to immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness even when lacking:

- ❖ Proof of residency ****FERPA
- ❖ Guardianship
- ❖ Birth certificates, school records, or other documents
- ❖ Medical records, including immunization records
- ❖ Required dress code items, including uniforms



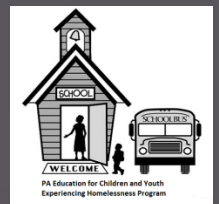
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Enrollment Cont'd.

- ❖ School placement in:
 - School of origin, if the parent and/or child wishes and it is feasible
 - School in area of current residency
- ❖ **School of origin** is defined as the school the child attended when permanently housed or where they were last enrolled
- ❖ If the child is unaccompanied, his/her wishes should be taken into consideration



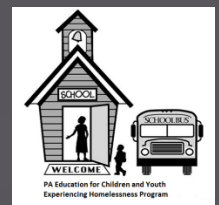
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School Selection (Factors to Consider)

- ❖ Mileage to original school
- ❖ Age of child
- ❖ Area the family and/or child might relocate to
- ❖ Special needs
- ❖ Time of school year
- ❖ Other siblings
- ❖ Domestic violence (Danger at school?)
- ❖ Consult with staff at original school (best interest)
- ❖ Pregnant teen and child care
- ❖ Parent/Guardian/Child choice



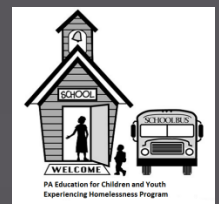
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Transportation

- ❖ School districts are required to adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided to school of origin
- ❖ Child's right to attend their school of origin extends for the duration of their homelessness and for the remainder of the academic year, if they become permanently housed
- ❖ Title I monies can be used to transport a homeless student or former homeless student



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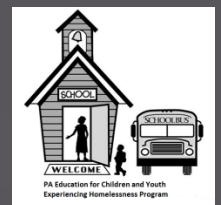
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Addressing Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

LEAs must:

- ❖ Set aside Title I funds (justify amount)
- ❖ Ensure immediate enrollment
- ❖ Enroll students in free breakfast and lunch programs
- ❖ Ensure access to instructional support/resources, special education and gifted programs
- ❖ Provide homeless awareness training
- ❖ Alert teachers of a student's living situation (respecting privacy)
- ❖ Know laws pertaining to homeless children and remove barriers



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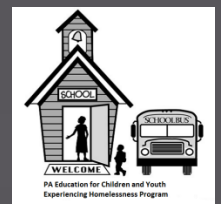
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Addressing Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

LEAs must:

- ❖ Post educational rights in schools and community
- ❖ Provide access for unaccompanied youth (must enroll without proof of guardianship)
- ❖ Have a dispute resolution procedure
- ❖ Publish homeless information on website and in handbooks
- ❖ Provide community resources to homeless families
- ❖ Provide academic remediation and support interventions



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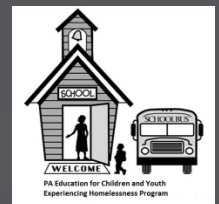
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Title I Funding

Allowable Expenses

- ❖ School Clothing/Supplies
- ❖ Students fees (general education programs/testing)
- ❖ Transportation (former and current homeless students)
- ❖ Birth Certificates
- ❖ Immunizations
- ❖ Emergency Food
- ❖ Medical/Dental service
- ❖ Eyeglasses/Hearing Aids
- ❖ Counseling/Outreach Services
- ❖ Tutoring or extended learning time (before or after school)



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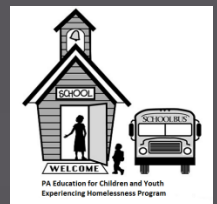
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Title I Funding

Prohibited

- ❖ Cannot supplant other state or local funds
- ❖ Rent
- ❖ Utilities
- ❖ Clothing for parents



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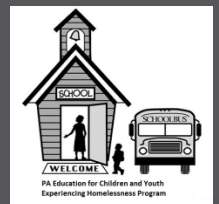
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Dispute Resolution

LEA → Regional Coordinator → State Coordinator

Formal Dispute → Legal → Court

******If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the child or youth involved must immediately be admitted to the school in which they are seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute. A written explanation must be given if enrollment is denied. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied must also be informed of his/her right to appeal the school's decision.



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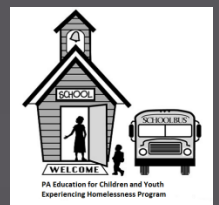
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Homeless Children Characteristics

- Attendance at several schools
- More than one family at the same address
- Attention-seeking behavior
- Hunger and hoarding of food
- Sleeping in class
- Inappropriate dress for weather

Some common statements used by homeless students include:

- "We've moved a lot."
- "We're staying with friends."
- "We're looking for a place."
- "We're going through a bad time now."



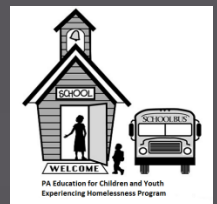
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Difficulties for homeless students

- ❖ Ashamed of where they live
- ❖ Teased by other students about homelessness, hygiene and inabilities
- ❖ Misunderstood by parents
- ❖ Difficulty adjusting to new school
- ❖ No place to do homework
- ❖ Developmental delays augment feelings of failure



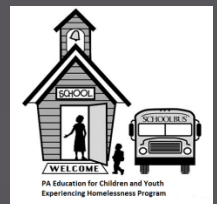
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Challenges for teachers

- ❖ Student attended many different schools with different teaching methods
- ❖ No school records
- ❖ Need to assess educational needs without prior records
- ❖ Student may move soon
- ❖ Other students react negatively
- ❖ Student might have difficulty trusting
- ❖ Inability to contact parents
- ❖ Parents often emotionally unavailable
- ❖ Homework completion can be difficult



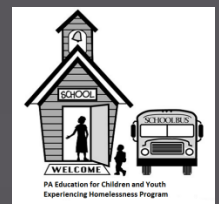
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What the Staff Can Do

- ❖ Make the student feel welcome
- ❖ Make contact with the parents and invite them to participate in school activities
- ❖ Give the child ownership of school space (locker, etc.) and something they can call their own (chore or responsibility)
- ❖ Ensure opportunities to participate in after-school activities and in-school programs
- ❖ Don't bring special attention to the fact they are homeless in front of other children
- ❖ Learn more about conditions from where the family is coming



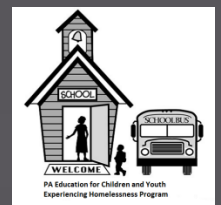
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What the Staff Can Do Cont'd.

- ❖ Work closely with staff and administration when behavioral and/or medical needs are observed
- ❖ Be sensitive to needs of homeless children, but maintain consistent, high expectations
- ❖ Be aware homeless students often live in noisy, crowded conditions (tuning out)
- ❖ Try not to take away possessions or Physical Education as a disciplinary measure
- ❖ Be aware some assignments/projects may be difficult for the student (Things involving family, house, internet access, etc.)
- ❖ Communicate with shelter/agency and know community resources



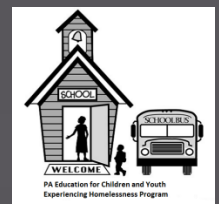
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What the Staff Can Do Cont'd.

- ❖ Discuss privately with the student what accommodations exist for doing homework and make necessary arrangements
- ❖ Inform liaison of situation (be aware of procedure)
- ❖ Don't penalize students who are being late as they may not have reliable transportation
- ❖ Stabilize the child's basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, medical care, basic hygiene)
- ❖ Administer brief educational assessment to determine level of academic ability



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