

MCKINNEY-VENTO 101: UNDERSTANDING THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

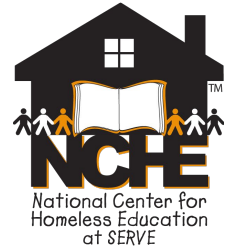


National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

<http://nche.ed.gov>

Downloads: <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/>

Product Support: <https://nchehelpline.org/>



MCKINNEY-VENTO REGIONAL WEBSITE

- Your “one stop shop” for everything related to MV
 - Training Information
 - Resources
 - Forms

Link: Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District

www.woodstown.org

- Click on “Homeless Education”

Contact Information

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Mercer/Burlington Counselors

Mercer County
TBD

Roxanne Boleslawski
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Burlington County

State Coordinator of Homeless Education

- Each state has a coordinator of state-level activities that include ensuring school district compliance, collecting data on educational barriers, and providing trainings and technical assistance.
- NJDOE
 - NJ State Coordinator - Pheobie Thomas
New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Supplemental Educational Programs
Telephone: (609) 376-9080
Pheobie.Thomas@doe.nj.gov

County Offices of Education

Mercer County Office of
Education

Mercer County Office of
Education

1075 Old Trenton Road

Trenton, NJ 08690

Ms. Yasmin

Hernández-Manno, Interim

Executive County

Superintendent

Phone: (609) 588-5877

Fax: (609) 588-5878

Burlington County Office of
Education

795 Woodlane Road,

Westampton, NJ 08060 Mr.

Daryl Minus-Vincent,

Interim Executive County

Superintendent

Phone: (609) 265-5060

Fax: (609)265-5922

SESSION OUTLINE

- The Context: Education and Homelessness
- Homeless Education Under ESSA and NJ
- Grant Funding
- Q&A and Discussion

HOMELESS IN AMERICA



-
- You Make the Difference!
 - Beating the Odds

FORECLOSURE RATES FOR NEW JERSEY

August 2019

New Jersey
1 in every 1192

Top 5 Counties

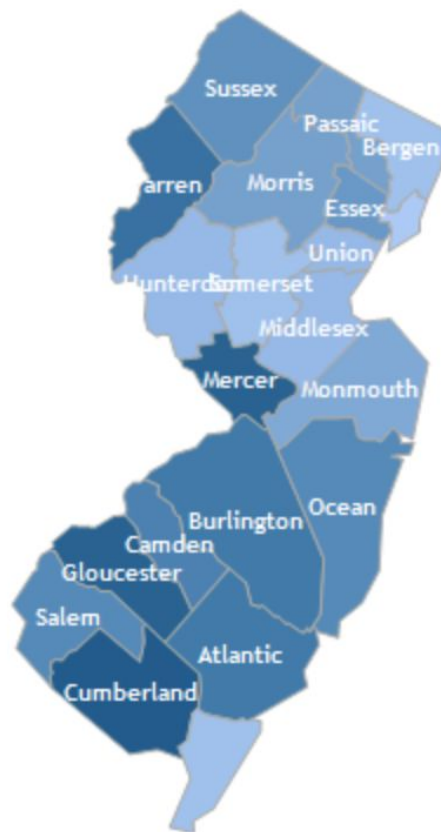
Cumberland
1 in every 430

Mercer
1 in every 543

Gloucester
1 in every 654

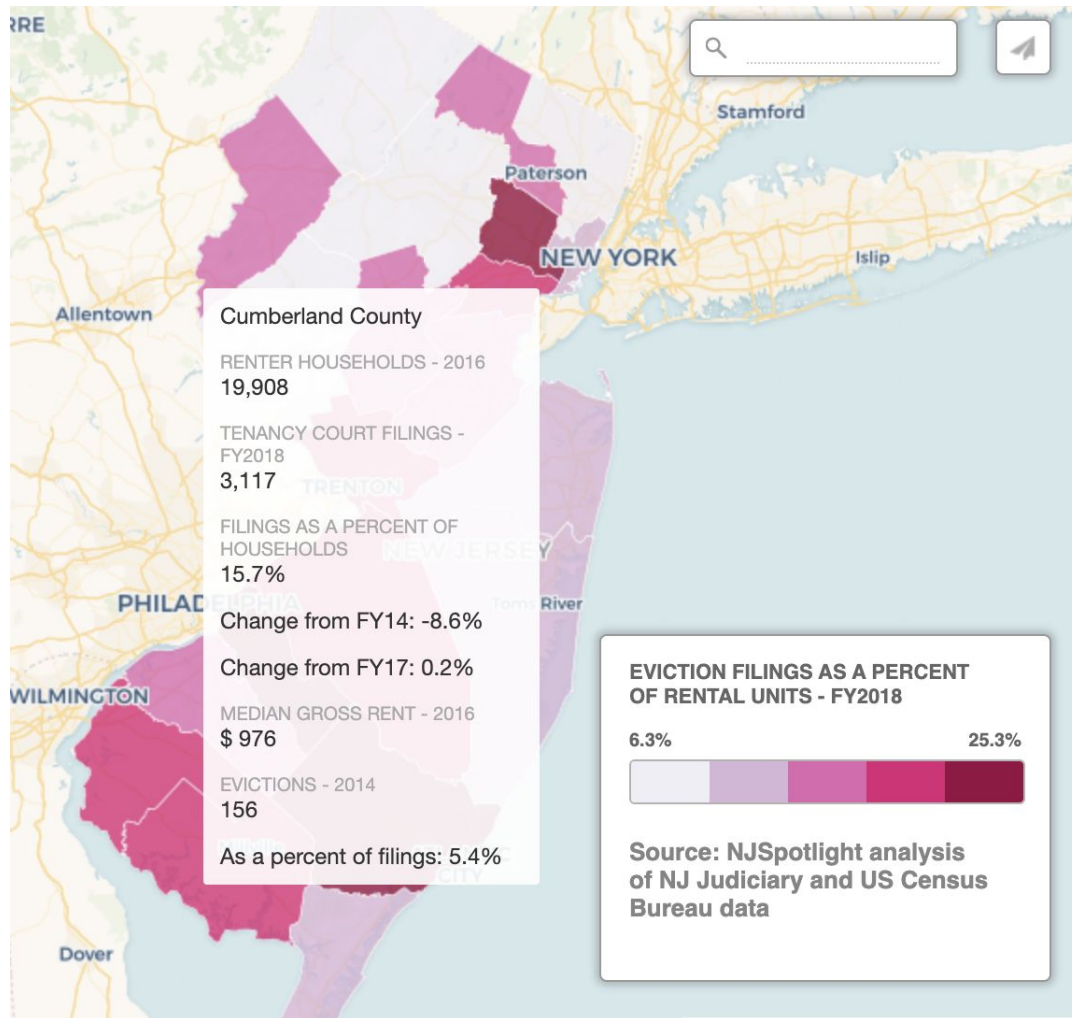
Warren
1 in every 783

Atlantic
1 in every 794



Add this map to your website.

GET EMBED CODE





EDUCATION AND HOMELESSNESS

NJAC 6A:17 - EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND STUDENTS

Challenges Associated with Homelessness

- **Poor Health**
 - More likely to suffer from illnesses such as asthma, fevers, and stomach problems
- **Poor Nutrition**
 - Suffer from hunger more than twice as often as non homeless children. Along with that, a poor diet is likely as healthier food costs more.
- **Fatigue**
 - Often lose sleep due to crowded living conditions and related stress
- **Stress/ Trauma**
 - Loss of the familiar (housing, friends, pets, etc) and constant worries regarding housing.
 - Higher likelihood of witnessing violence including domestic violence

HOMELESSNESS AFFECTS EDUCATION



- Students experiencing homelessness are more likely to
 - Be chronically absent from school
 - Get lower grades
 - Have special education needs
 - Score poorly on assessment tests
 - Drop out of school

Causes of Homelessness

- Primary Cause: Loss/Lack of Affordable Housing (Economic Factors)
 - 40% of homeless population is employed
 - Underemployed
 - Unexpected job loss
- Other Causes of Homelessness
 - Health Problems/Lack of Insurance
 - Sudden Illnesses
 - Parental Mental Health of Drug/Alcohol abuse
 - Fleeing Domestic Violence
 - Natural and other Disasters
 - Please be sure to report all students affected by natural disasters to the LEA on a monthly basis
 - Youth LGTBTQ issues in home (110,000 are currently homeless nationwide)

THE PREVENTIVE VALUE OF EDUCATION

Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk

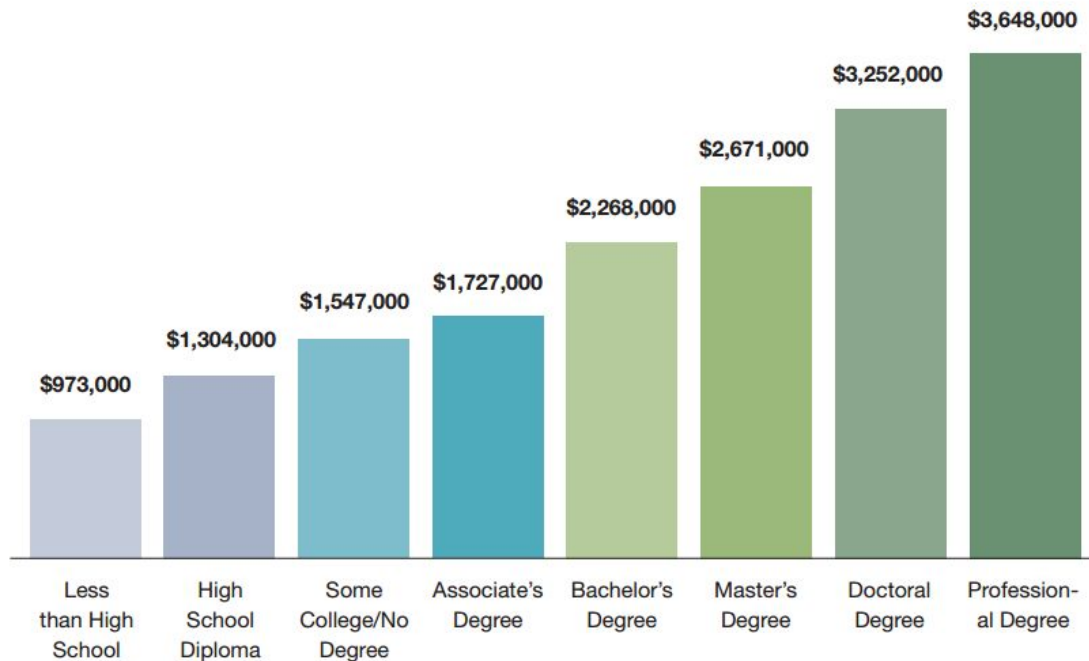


Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org

VOICES  OF
YOUTH COUNT

THE PREVENTIVE VALUE OF EDUCATION

FIGURE 1: MEDIAN LIFETIME EARNINGS BY HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2009 DOLLARS



HOMELESSNESS CREATES BARRIERS



- Students experiencing homelessness may
 - Be unable to meet school enrollment requirements.
 - Move around and change schools a lot.
 - Not have school supplies or a quiet place to study.
 - Not have access to reliable transportation
 - Not have a parent or guardian to help them (unaccompanied youth).
 - [Common Signs of Homelessness](#)

School Related Challenges

- Lack of awareness - under identification
 - **All associated personnel need training**
- Lack of school and educational stability
- Typical enrollment requirements present a challenge
 - Proof of residency, school records, immunization records, legal guardianship, etc.
- Lack of access to programs
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of special clothing, uniforms, etc. for class

MCKINNEY-VENTO DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

- Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including children and youth:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals

MCKINNEY-VENTO DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

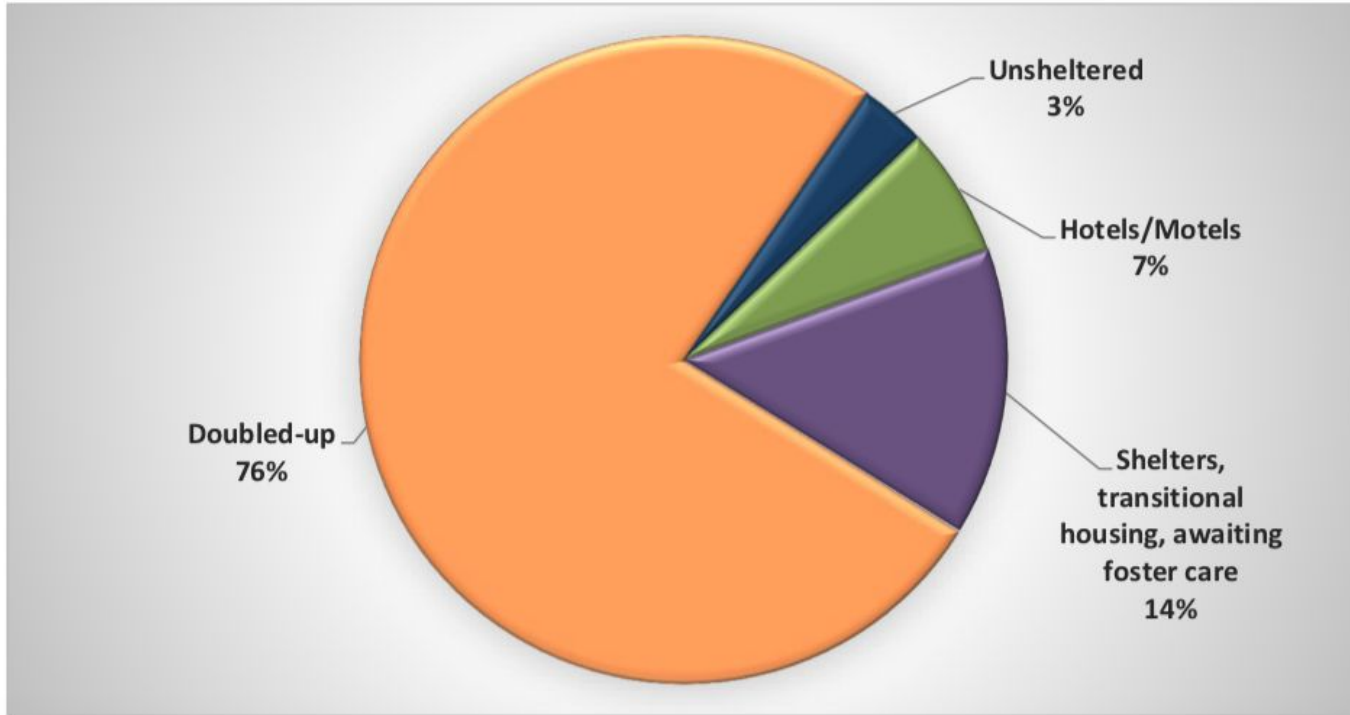
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances

[42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)]

- The term ***unaccompanied youth*** includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)].

STATISTICAL INFORMATION NATIONWIDE

Figure 3. Percentage of enrolled homeless students by primary nighttime residence, School Year 2015-16:
Ungraded, 3 to 5 year olds, and Kindergarten to Grade 13



STATISTICAL INFORMATION LOCALLY

- Nationally - 1.3 million children
 - NJ - over 13,000
- Regionally
 - 2017/2018
 - County Counts:
 - Cape May - 292
 - Cumberland - 665
 - Salem - 347
 - Burlington - 987
 - Mercer - 267
-

DETERMINATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

- The **local liaison** has the authority and responsibility to ensure that eligible students are identified; this should be a collaborative effort with school personnel, and through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies
- Eligibility determinations should be made on a **case-by-case basis**, considering the circumstances of each student.
- Pay close attention to the **legislative wording**, as it may provide needed clarity.

BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD

- Gather as much information as possible with sensitivity and discretion
 - Gather information regarding the event leading up to possible homelessness
 - Avoid using words like homeless whenever possible
 - Ex. "While you are not living in your own home..."
 - Ex. "While you are in this period of transition..."
- Discuss shared housing considerations:
 - Fixed: Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change
 - Regular: Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis (eg nightly); consider the relative permanence
 - Adequate: Sufficient for meeting the physical needs typically met in home environments.

Consider: Can the student go to the SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)? Will this be a permanent place of residency or will they be staying there temporarily?

BEST INTEREST



- In determining best interest, the school district shall
 - **Presume** that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth
 - **Consider student-centered factors** related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

[42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(B)]

Key Components of 6A

- **6A:17-2.4:** Notify the liaison of the school district of residence within 24 hours of receiving notification
- **6A:17-2.5: School district of residence . . .** The distance, travel time, and safety factors in coordinating transportation services from the residence to the school.
- **6A:17-2.5:** If a dispute arises regarding enrollment of a homeless child, the homeless child shall be immediately enrolled in the school district in which enrollment is sought by the parent or guardian, pending resolution of the dispute pursuant

ESSA'S REQUIREMENT TO REMOVE BARRIERS

- States and school districts must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers
- The requirement to remove barriers is a broad, ongoing requirement that should include regular input from homeless parents, youth, and advocates so that new barriers do not prevent students from full participation in school.

IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT



- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to **immediate school enrollment**
 - even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment; or
 - even if having missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)].
- ***Enrollment*** is defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities” [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)].

ENROLLMENT

- Must be immediate even if the students do not have:
 - Birth Certificates
 - School Records or Transcripts
 - Immunization or Other Health Records
 - Liaisons Must Assist In Order to Get Them
 - Vast Majority Have Prior Schooling Before and Have Received Immunization
 - Must Request Records From Prior School
 - Proof of Residency or Guardianship
 - [NJDOE Memo](#)
 - Other Necessary Documents

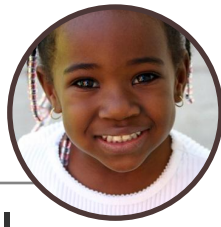
ENROLLMENT

- Parental Signature is Not Required for Transfer Students (FERPA)
- Student Information May Be Shared Between School Districts (FERPA)
- Speak with Parents and Youth about the Classes the Student was in, Any Previous Coursework and Special Needs
- Call the Counselor, Teachers, or Principal at Their Former School for More Information
- Ensure Enrollment Staff at Each School are Aware of the Law and Procedures Required

SCHOOL STABILITY

- **Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to attend**
 - **The school of origin (School of Residence)**
 - The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed, or
 - The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled
 - Includes public preschools
 - Includes receiving schools
 - **The local attendance area school (School of Temporary Residency)**
 - Any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend
 - [School Decision Checklist](#)

PRESCHOOL



- The term ***school of origin*** means 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 [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(I)(i)].

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

- Definition: A youth “not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian”
- There is no lower age limit for unaccompanied youth.
 - A youth can be eligible regardless of whether he/she was asked to leave the home or “chose” to leave; requires investigation not interrogation
- Great care must be given to awareness of signs of youth human trafficking
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school after considering the youth’s wishes and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights
- It may be helpful to ask students who are living with others where they would live if they could not stay at their current location. If the student replies that he/she would be living in one of the situations listed above (motel, car, etc.), or is not sure where he or she would stay, the student does not have fixed, regular, and adequate housing, and therefore meets the definition of homeless.
- LEA policies need to be revised to accommodate unaccompanied youth and comply with the McKinney Vento Act
- Develop caregiver forms, youth self enrollment forms for unaccompanied youth and other forms to replace typical proof of guardianship
- School personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

- Provide unaccompanied youth the opportunity to enroll in diversified learning opportunities- vocational education, credit for work programs and flexible school hours
- Provide a safe place and a trained mentor at school for unaccompanied youth to access as needed
- Consider exceptions to school policies - class schedules, absence/tardiness policies to accommodate the unique needs of unaccompanied youth
- Assist with credit accrual and recovery
- [Option 2 - NJ](#)

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

- Some youth become homeless with their families, but end up on their own due to:
 - Lack of space in temporary accommodations
 - Shelter policies that prohibit adolescent boys
- Over two thirds of callers to Runaway Hotline report that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol
- Over half of youth living in shelters report that their parent(s) either told them to leave or knew they were leaving and did not care
- [Youth Homelessness](#)

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

NJ SMART INFORMATION:

Y1 = Yes, student was homeless at any time during the school year and has been in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

Y2 = Yes, student was homeless at any time during the school year and was NOT in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian (unaccompanied).

N = No, student was not homeless.

See page 24 in the [STUDENT DATA REPORTING HANDBOOK](#)

FOSTER PLACEMENT

- Language removed from McKinney-Vento
- ESSA created a similar process for Foster Care Students
- The NJDOE offers guidance in this area through the
 - [Fostering Connections Act](#)
- Districts should have a Point of Contact for this (POC)
 - No Longer the Role of the Homeless Liaison to Provide Services

DURATION OF SCHOOL OF ORIGIN RIGHTS

- Homeless children and youth have the right to attend the school of origin for the duration of homelessness
 - In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year.
 - For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year.
 - Students do not need to register in the district in which they are temporarily residing, if not attending school in that district.
 - Notification to school district in which student is temporarily residing is critical as it documents timeline for being deemed domiciled.

DOMICILED

- After 12 months, students are considered **deemed domiciled**. The McKinney Vento services continue however financial responsibility shifts from the district of residence to the domiciled district (NJ statute)
- Best interest of the student
 - Keep students experiencing homelessness in their school of residence to the **extent feasible** unless against the parent's or guardian's wishes
- As per the USDOE, a few criteria to consider:
 - Age of child or youth
 - Safety of the child or youth
 - Likely length of stay in temporary housing
 - Likely area where family will find permanent housing
 - Student's need for special instructional programs
 - Impact of commute on education
 - School placement of siblings
 - Time remaining in school

DOMICILED

- Deemed Domiciled - must establish a send/receive relationship between the district where domiciled and the district of origin
 - Should enroll in the district where domiciled
 - May still continue to attend school of origin (no time limit)
- Exception - Domestic Abuse Shelters - After 12 months - deemed domiciled but state becomes fiscally responsible

SCHOOL OF ORIGIN TRANSPORTATION



- Transportation must be provided to and from the school of origin at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the local liaison [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)].

SCHOOL OF ORIGIN TRANSPORTATION

Must LEAs continue to provide transportation to and from the school of origin for formerly homeless students who have become permanently housed?

Yes. LEAs must continue to provide transportation to and from the school of origin to formerly homeless students who have become permanently housed for the remainder of the academic year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.

TRANSPORTATION

- School District **must** provide students in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students
- School district **must** eliminate barriers to school enrollment for students experiencing homelessness (including the transportation barrier)
- School districts **may not** determine status based upon transportation costs
- School district **should not** cancel existing routes when a student is deemed domiciled before checking with fiscally responsible district - they may want to just continue and pay for the route
- School districts **should** re-route busses as necessary to meet the needs of the child
- School districts **should** develop formal or informal agreements with school districts where homeless children cross district lines

TRANSPORTATION

- Provide passes for public transportation
- Use approved van or taxi services
- Reimburse parents for gas/mileage
- Pursue inter-agency solutions

SCHOOL OF ORIGIN TRANSPORTATION

Does the McKinney-Vento Act require an LEA to provide transportation services to homeless children attending preschool?

Yes. The McKinney-Vento Act requires LEAs to provide transportation services to the school of origin, which includes public preschools. Accordingly, transportation to the school of origin must be provided even if a homeless preschooler who is enrolled in a public preschool in one LEA moves to another LEA that does not provide widely available or universal preschool.

Case: Long Term Homeless in NJ

“My Biggest Fear”

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- If, after conducting the best interest determination, the district determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, **the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination**, in a manner and form understandable to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)].
- **Executive County Superintendent Determination Checklist**
- MV Eligibility Dispute Form - Google
 - MV Eligibility Dispute Form - Word

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- The child or youth shall be **immediately enrolled** in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)(i)].
- Students must **receive all services** for which they are eligible until final resolution of all disputes and appeals (EHCY Guidance, Question K-7).

CREDIT ACCRUAL

- States and school districts must implement procedures to identify and remove barriers to McKinney-Vento students receiving appropriate **credit for full or partial coursework** satisfactorily completed at a prior school (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(F)(ii); EHCY Guidance, Question O-2)

HIGHER EDUCATION



- School counselors must assist students experiencing homelessness with **college preparation and readiness** [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(K)].
- Local liaisons must inform unaccompanied youth about their **independent student status** on the FAFSA and assist with verification of this status [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(x)(III)].
- **Fee waivers** are available for AP tests, the ACT, the SAT, and college applications.
- Visit and <https://nche.ed.gov/higher-education/> for more information.

OTHER SUPPORTS

- Students experiencing homelessness
 - Are categorically eligible for **free school meals**.
 - **USDA has limited the documentation requirements to:**
 - Students name
 - Effective date to receive meals
 - Signature of the Homeless Liaison or service provide

Are categorically eligible for support under **Title I, Part A**, including supports provided through the Title I, Part A homeless set-aside.

- [Title I Information Memo](#) - Use of Title I to support MV Liaison Salary and Transportation for MV students
- [Title I Set Aside](#) - Based on previous years numbers
- Must be included in **special education** child find efforts and provided with special education services, when needed.

Reciprocal Agreements

- Please consider having these in place for your county
 - [Salem County Agreement](#)

HOMELESS GUIDANCE



Temporary Emergency Impact Aid
Homeless Liaison Toolkit
NJ McKinney-Vento Guidance

Social Media

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the McKinney-Vento Regional page. The top navigation bar includes the Facebook logo, a search bar with "McKinney-Vento Regional" entered, and user options for "Christopher", "Home", "Create", and a group icon. Below the navigation bar, the page header shows "Page" as the active tab, with other tabs like "Inbox 1", "Manage Jobs", "Notifications 10", "Insights", "Publishing Tools", and "More". The main content area features a large video player for a "Workplace by facebook" advertisement. The video player has a play button, a progress bar at 0:00, and a "Get Workplace for Free" button. To the left of the video player is a circular profile picture of the McKinney-Vento Regional Program, showing a map of New Jersey with counties Mercer, Burlington, Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May highlighted. Below the profile picture is the page name "McKinney-Vento Regional" and the handle "@mckinneyventosj". A "Change Cover" button is visible below the video player. At the bottom of the page is the McKinney-Vento logo, which consists of two stylized blue figures holding hands, with the text "McKinney-Vento" and "Serving Students In Transition" below it.

McKinney-Vento Regional
@mckinneyventosj

Home
Posts
Jobs
Events
Reviews

Try a WORK 1001 You Already Know How to Use
Workplace is like Facebook, but for work. It's an easy to use tool for get McKinney-Vento Regional.
Create a place to work with Sera and McKenney from McKin
Get Workplace for Free

Change Cover

McKinney-Vento
Serving Students In Transition

Stay up to date on the latest information from resource providers, trainings, articles, etc. on our Facebook page @mckinneyventosj

Social Media

Need to get your information about resources, trainings, events, etc. out to your county schools? We have a email groups that can help.

- Public Relations Coordinator
 - mvregpr@gmail.com

MCKINNEY-VENTO GRANT FUNDING

- SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR:
 - Instruction and Tutoring
 - Extraordinary Transportation Costs
 - Fees (Activities, Field Trips, Clubs, etc.)
 - Special Clothing (Uniforms, Dress Code, Safety Items, etc.)
 - Equipment (Athletics, Instruments, etc.)
 - School Supplies
 - Counseling Services
 - Supporting Parent Involvement

Services

- Counseling
 - Available to provide one on one counseling
- Tutoring
 - Certified teachers in Math/ELA at FSC's
 - Club Z Tutoring - At Large
- Technology
 - Chromebook Carts with 15 devices assigned
 - Family Success Centers

ADDITIONAL TRAININGS

- **Regional Program Team**
 - **Available to attend Inservice Trainings**
 - **Faculty Meetings**
 - **Parent Functions**
 - **Special Events**

*** We can tailor this training to fit the time requirements as necessary. The goal is to inform as many people as possible of the McKinney-Vento Act and its requirements.

Visit us at www.woodstown.org and click on Region 8. Use the Google Form to request our services.

[McKinney-Vento Region 8 Referral Services](#)



Videos:

- [60 Minutes: Hard Times Generation: Homeless Kids](#)
- [60 Minutes: Hard Times Generation: Living in Cars](#)
- For other videos on Homelessness, visit [NCHE Videos](#)

IN SUMMARY

- Follow the regulations and best practices
- Be on the side of the student
- Communication is key
 - Stakeholders and Support Personnel
 - Don't make decisions in a vacuum
 - When in doubt, call!

Surveys Says!

I've invited you to fill out a form:

[McKinney-Vento 101 Training Survey](#)

Please take a few moments to complete the survey to better assist us in planning for future training sessions.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6exf7l6>

