

McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Education Program: 2015-2016

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At-a-Glance

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program is a federally funded program designed to provide enrichment and support services to homeless children and their families. It also promotes understanding and acts as an advocate on behalf of homeless families by educating staff and the community about their responsibilities to the homeless and about the rights and issues of homeless children, youth and their parents. The purpose of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program is to facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youths.

During the 2015-16 academic school year, the program received \$175,000 from Title I, Part A funding for homeless students.¹

McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Education Program Context and Goals

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Subtitle B—Education for Homeless Children and Youths) guarantees educational rights and protections for children and youths experiencing homelessness. Section 725 (2) of the McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youths as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to loss of housing or economic hardship”. This includes children and youths living in shared housing with other persons, cars, hotels, motels, bus or train stations, trailer parks, abandoned buildings, camping grounds, emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals or waiting for foster care placement.

The Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) responded to the homeless population of children and youths within the district with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program to provide direct services to homeless school age children. These services include tutoring, homework help, referrals, school supplies, food, backpacks, and school uniforms. The program has also served children, families, and youths indirectly by providing training to Dallas ISD and shelter personnel. The program’s stated goals are to:

- Improve attendance rates of the program students, and
- Increase directly served homeless students’ academic success.

Program Participants

As of June 26, 2016 a total of 3,590 homeless students were enrolled in Dallas ISD schools. Of these, 1,846 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 were served through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program. There were 1,744 homeless students not served by McKinney-Vento who were designated Temporary Arrangement (students enrolled in Dallas ISD but not directly receiving program services). The total number of homeless students enrolled in the Dallas ISD from 2014-15 to 2015-16 increased from 2,254 to 3,590. This increase was due to improved identification of homeless students.

Table 1 shows, as of June 3, 2016, that homeless students were represented at all grades.

Table 1: Number of McKinney-Vento and Temporary Arrangement Students by Grade, 2015-16

Grade	McKinney-Vento	Temporary Arrangement	Total
PK	102	155	257
K	172	198	370
1	163	143	306
2	192	132	324
3	153	140	293
4	156	111	267
5	145	119	264
6	123	59	182
7	111	57	168
8	140	75	215
9	218	191	409
10	1	218	219
11	79	69	148
12	91	77	168
Total	1,846	1,744	3,590

Fifty-one percent (51.2%) of all McKinney-Vento students were African American, 39.0 percent were Hispanic, and 9.2 percent were white. Approximately 13 percent (12.8%) of the McKinney-Vento students were classified as English language learners (ELL) and 11.5 percent were special education students. Forty-nine percent (49.0%) of homeless students were female.

About forty-one percent (40.5%) of all homeless students were in elementary schools. The elementary schools with the largest homeless populations were: Urban Park (83 students, 5.5%), McNair (74 students, 4.9%), Soto (67 students, 4.5%), Wilmer-Hutchens (67 students, 4.5%). Homeless students were present throughout Dallas ISD schools. The number of students enrolled at a particular school varied throughout the year.

Program Activities

The Homeless Education Program staff worked in conjunction with the Psychological and Social Services

¹ Source: 2015-16 Title I, Part A workscope

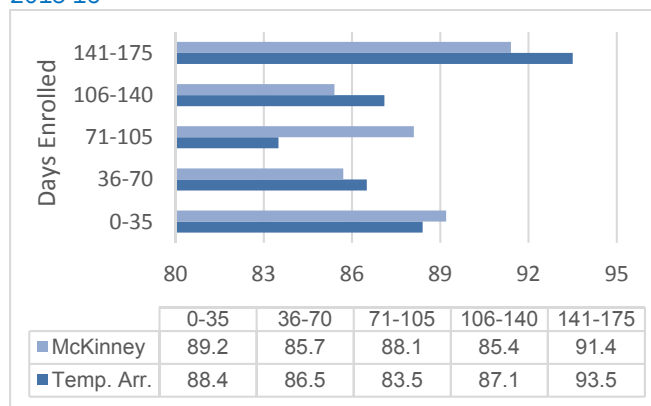
Department coordinating efforts with psychologists, teachers, and social workers to provide services (tutoring, homework help, referrals, school supplies, food, backpacks, and school uniforms) to homeless students.

The program also collaborated with various local agencies including the University of Texas at Dallas, West Lake YMCA, Rainbow Days, Captain Hope's Kids, Church of the Incarnation, Focus on Teens, Promise House, The North Texas Food Bank, and Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian to provide enrichment and camps throughout the year.

Program Outcomes

Figure 1 shows the average attendance rates (equal to days attended/days enrolled) for both the McKinney-Vento and Temporary Arrangement students. Due to the transient nature of the population, some students were enrolled for a short time, while others attended school for the whole year. The data indicated there were slightly higher rates of attendance for Temporary Arrangement students compared to McKinney-Vento students across three of the five attendance brackets. The overall attendance rate for the district was 95.6 percent.

Figure 1: Percent Attendance Rates by Number of Days Enrolled for Temporary Arrangement and McKinney-Vento Students, 2015-16



TerraNova/SUPERA Results

Temporary Arrangement students outperformed McKinney-Vento students on *TerraNova* reading and mathematics and *SUPERA* reading. *SUPERA* was the Spanish version of the *TerraNova*. Both groups were outperformed by other district students on *TerraNova* reading and mathematics; however, Temporary Arrangement students outperformed district students on *SUPERA* reading (Table 2).

Table 2: Grades K-2 *TerraNova*/*SUPERA* Percentage of Students at or Above the 40th Percentile Rank

	McKinney-Vento	Temporary Arrangement	District
<i>TerraNova</i>			
Reading	57.1	64.4	68.4
Mathematics	38.4	47.4	56.1
<i>SUPERA</i>			
Reading	62.5	74.2	72.7

STAAR Results

The percentage of students performing at the satisfactory level on *STAAR* for grades 3-8 students is presented in Table 3. Temporary Arrangement students outperformed McKinney-Vento students in all subjects.

Table 3: Grades 3-8 *STAAR* Percentage of Satisfactory Level II

	McKinney-Vento	Temporary Arrangement	District
Reading	48.9	57.7	63.2
Mathematics	41.5	55.8	61.7
Writing	43.7	48.8	57.7
Social Studies	28.1	32.7	42.3
Science	41.1	56.8	58.7

McKinney-Vento students were outperformed by Temporary Arrangement and district students on Algebra I *STAAR End-of-Course* (EOC) tests. All other EOC exams showed that McKinney-Vento students outperformed Temporary Arrangement students.

Table 4: Percentage at Satisfactory Level II on *STAAR* EOC for Homeless Students

Student Group	Satisfactory 2014-15	Satisfactory 2015-16
		<u>English I</u>
McKinney-Vento	28.3	39.1
Temporary Arr.	28.9	34.4
District	59.0	51.2
		<u>English II</u>
McKinney-Vento	36.6	38.9
Temporary Arr.	44.4	37.2
District	61.0	52.6
		<u>Algebra I</u>
McKinney-Vento	50.0	45.4
Temporary Arr.	64.2	50.4
District	78.0	66.6
		<u>Biology</u>
McKinney-Vento	64.3	54.8
Temporary Arr.	83.3	54.3
District	91.0	76.8
		<u>US History</u>
McKinney-Vento	75.8	71.2
Temporary Arr.	84.4	66.7
District	92.0	88.2

Recommendations

The district's McKinney-Vento Program provides essential outreach activities to the district's homeless population and should be commended for its efforts. The program has expanded to two full-time and five part-time staff members; however, according to program management, the staff is still unable to physically meet many of the needs of the homeless population. The district should continue to support this program and to collaborate with appropriate internal and external partners.

For more information, contact Program Evaluation at 972-925-6457.