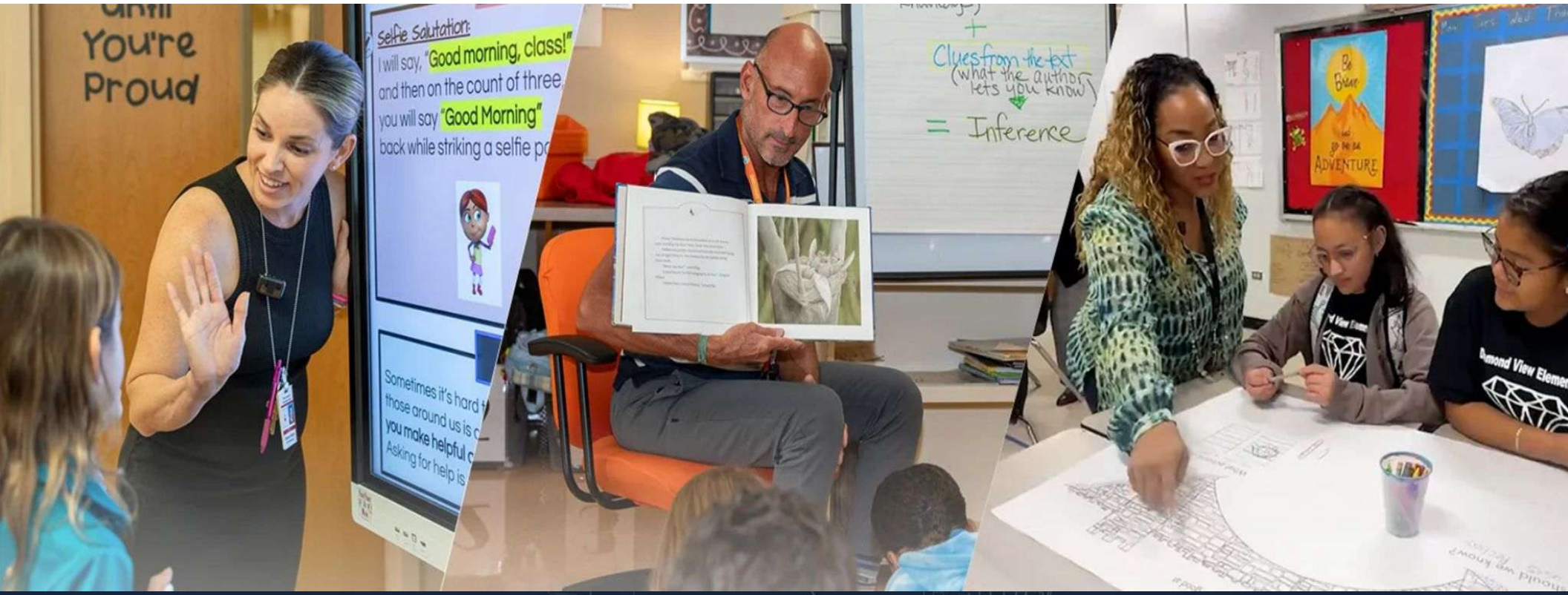


Stronger Together: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Improve Outcomes for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Keith Oswald, Chief of Student Health and Wellness
Melissa Patterson, Director of Safe Schools
School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC)

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District at a Glance

As the 10th largest district in the nation, we proudly serve 76% of all students in Palm Beach County as the premier educational institution in our region.



A
An "A"-Rated District



96.7%
Graduation Rate



160,000
Students



182
Schools



300+
Choice & Career Programs



197
Countries Represented



13,000+
Certified Teachers



91%
of High Schools are A/B Rated

AGENDA / OBJECTIVE

“Stronger Together: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Improve Outcomes for Students Experiencing Homelessness”

This session highlights how the School District of Palm Beach County supports students experiencing homelessness under McKinney-Vento through strong, ongoing collaboration with community partners. Participants will learn how cross-sector partnerships address barriers that impact academic outcomes for these historically lowest-performing students. We will showcase a dynamic data dashboard that enables partners to target supports by zip code, school, and elected officials’ districts. The dashboard also connects schools to critical resources—such as community hunger relief programs—ensuring coordinated, data-driven interventions that improve student achievement and well-being.

handshake

Cross-Sector Collaboration & Support

Highlighting how the School District of Palm Beach County supports students experiencing homelessness under McKinney-Vento through ongoing community partnerships to address key academic barriers.

dashboard

Dynamic Data Dashboard

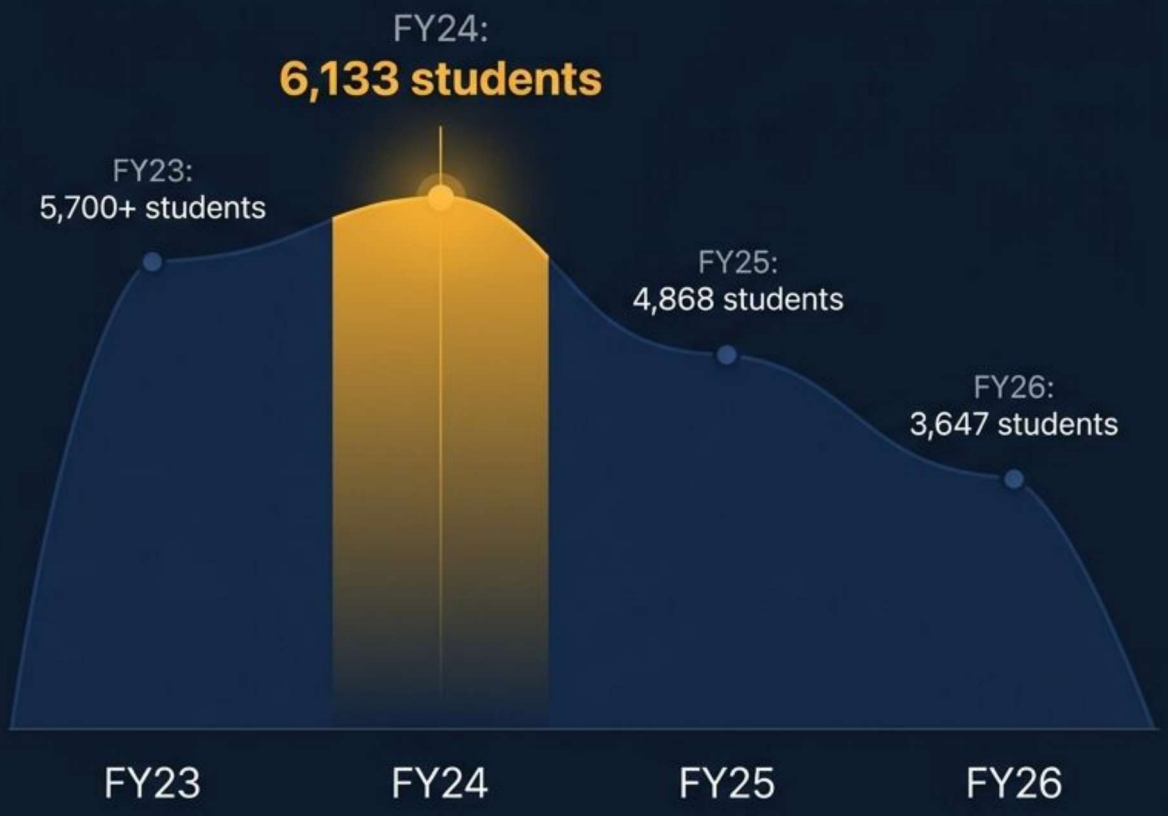
Showcasing a dynamic data dashboard that enables partners to target supports by zip code, school, and elected officials’ districts for maximum community impact.

volunteer_activism

Coordinated Interventions & Resources

Connecting schools directly to critical resources—such as community hunger relief programs—ensuring data-driven interventions that improve student achievement and overall well-being.

Uncovering the Hidden Crisis in Our Classrooms



Identification is the First Intervention

Every number represents a student successfully found by the MVP team, moving them out of the shadows and into a structured ecosystem of support.

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Redefining the Reality of Student Homelessness



The Vast Majority (Shared Housing):
2,864 students

Living doubled-up due to loss of housing or economic hardship.



The Sheltered:
329 students

Emergency or transitional shelters.



The Invisible (Hotels/Motels):
258 students

Living week-to-week in inadequate accommodations.



The Most Vulnerable (Unsheltered):
196 students

Sleeping in cars, parks, or public spaces.

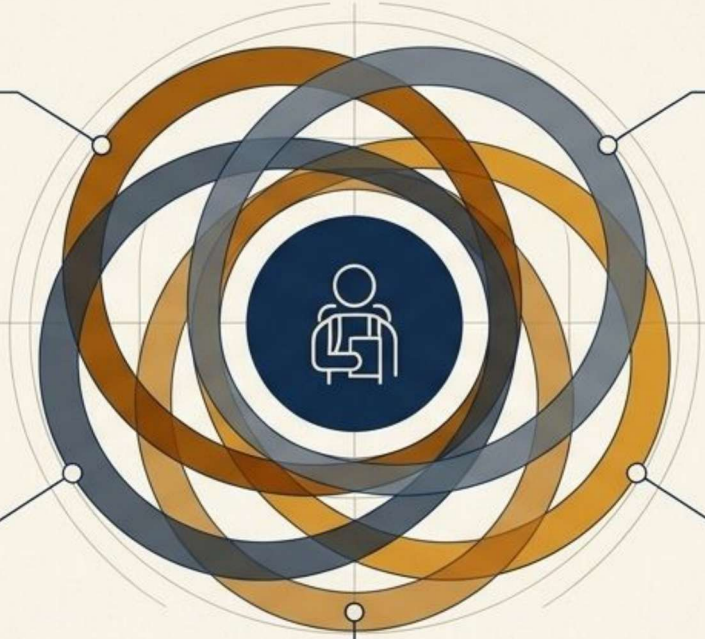
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The McKinney-Vento Mandate Secures Immediate Stability



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Academic interventions fail when **foundational human needs** remain unmet.



Housing Instability
High mobility across motels, shelters, and doubled-up residences disrupts continuous learning

Transportation Logistics
Inability to maintain school-of-origin attendance without customized transit solutions.

Basic Needs Insecurity
Lack of clean clothing, hygiene products, and consistent nutrition.

Afterschool Costs
Financial barriers preventing access to enrichment and supervised care.

Trauma
The cumulative psychological weight of severe systemic instability.

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Moving Beyond the Mandate to Comprehensive Care





Academic Stability

District-certified tutoring (especially for students in shelters), attendance monitoring, and active MVP Case Manager participation in School-Based Team (SBT) meetings to advocate for the student.



Hygiene & Dignity

New shoes, socks, and complete toiletry kits to support overall physical well-being.

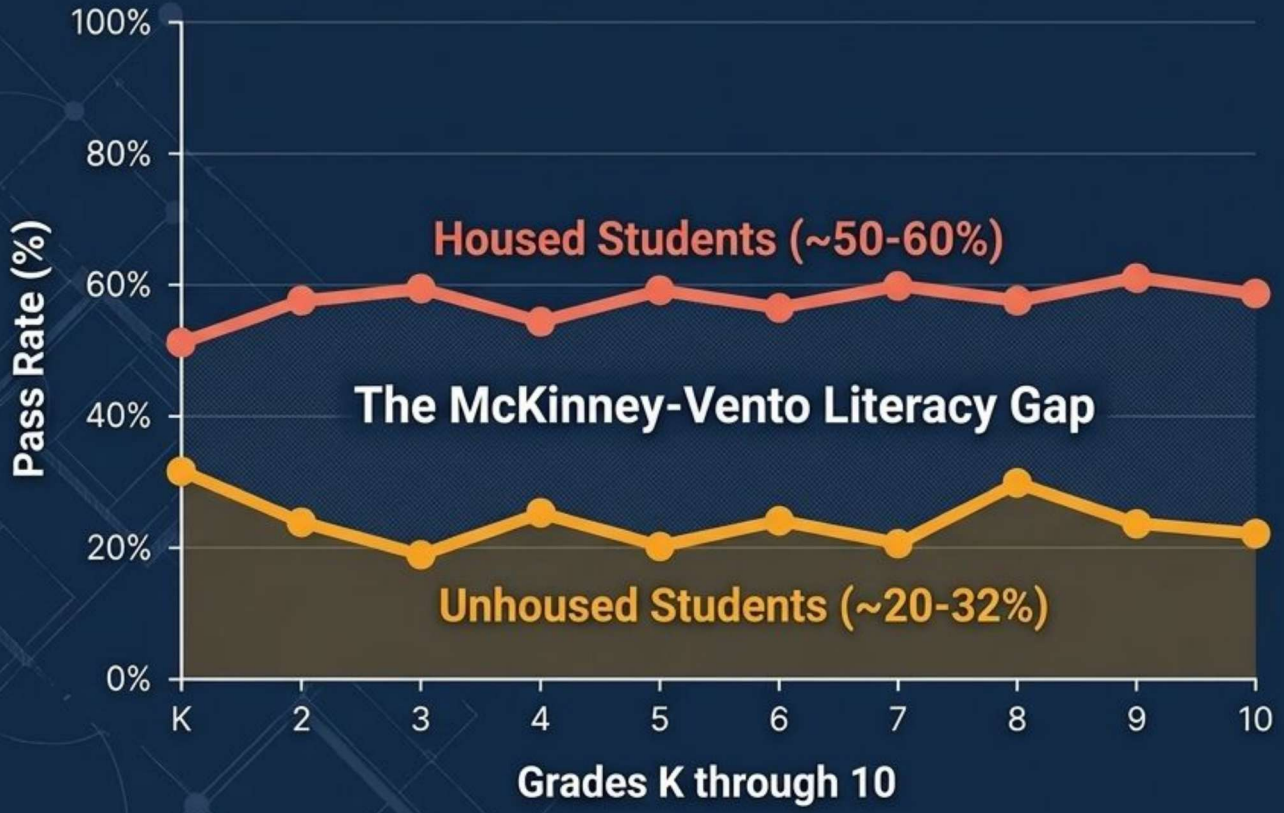


Basic Needs & Essentials

Backpacks, school supplies, and year-round uniform provision to eliminate stigma.

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The Literacy Chasm: A Persistent Gap from Kindergarten to 10th Grade



FY23 PM3 STAR ELA (Grades K-2):

Unhoused students pass at roughly half the rate of their housed peers (e.g., Kindergarten: 32.3% vs. 61.6%).

FY23 PM3 FAST ELA (Grades 3-10):

The gap persists. Unhoused pass rates stagnate in the low 20s.

Across all grades, over 4,200 tested unhoused students remain trapped below grade-level literacy.

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Shifting from Siloed Responses to Ecosystem Synergy

Traditional Approach

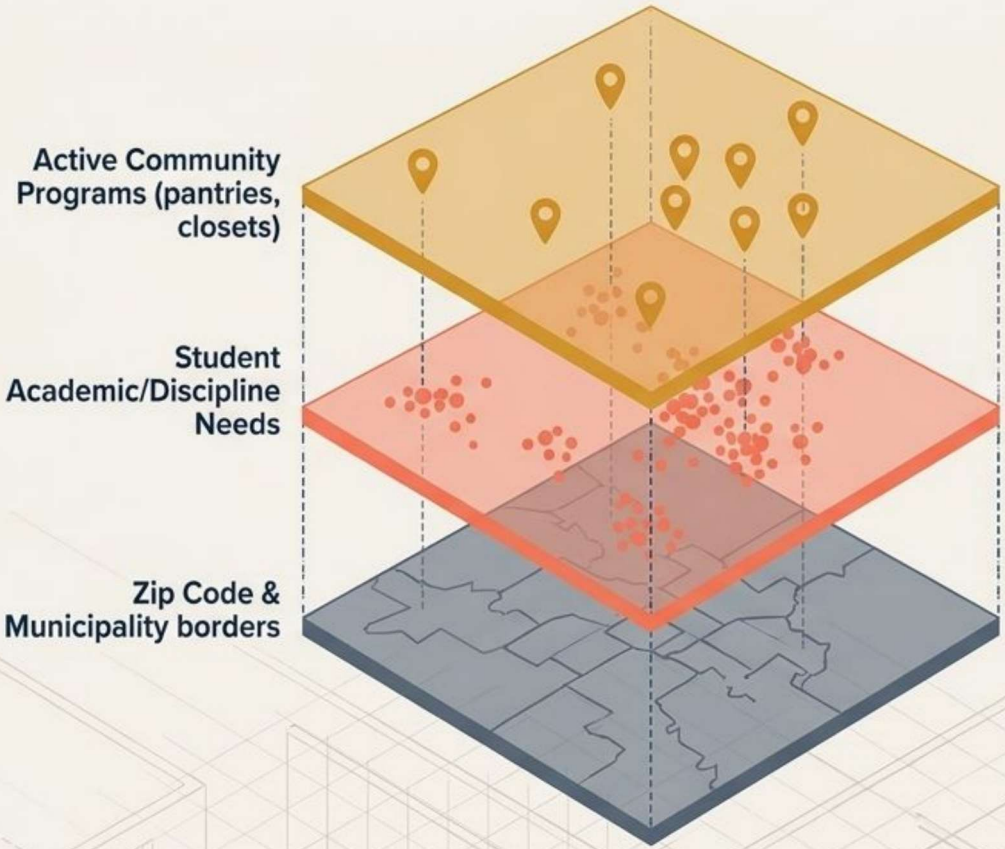
- Siloed agencies operating independently
- Fragmented, delayed, and isolated data
- Generic aftercare with standard enrollment
- Uncoordinated basic needs distribution

The Synergy Approach

- Multi-Agency Task Forces & Joint Commissions
- Real-Time Shared Data via Power BI
- Priority Wraparound Care & Target Enrollment
- Integrated Distribution Hubs & Supply Chains

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Data transparency bridges the gap between siloed community resources.



Innovation: Power BI Support Services Dashboard

Granular, Real-Time Deployment: Organizes de-identified data by school, zip code, municipality, region, and elected officials' districts.

Cross-Sector Integration

Correlates student academic, attendance, and discipline data with hunger relief pantries, backpack distributions, and clothing closets to prevent duplication of services.

Privacy-First Architecture (FERPA Compliant)

Automatic suppression of data counts under 10 gives partners "x-ray vision" into community needs while fully protecting individual student privacy.

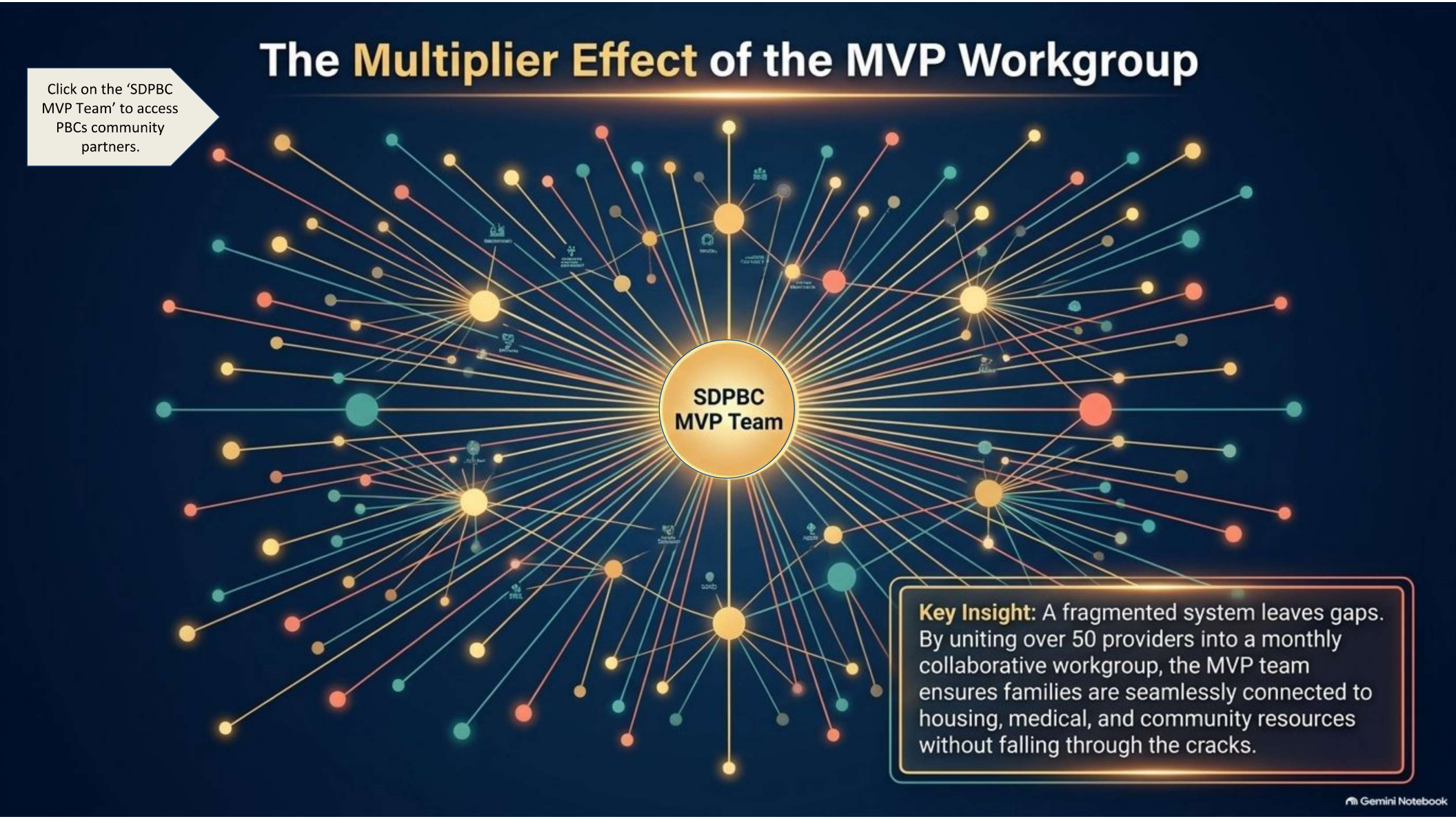
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The School District of Palm Beach County is committed to the education and well-being of all children in our community. The **Support Services Dashboard** provides vital insights into the needs of our students, focusing on areas such as housing insecurity, hunger relief, academic performance, attendance, and discipline issues.

The Multiplier Effect of the MVP Workgroup

Click on the 'SDPBC MVP Team' to access PBCs community partners.



Key Insight: A fragmented system leaves gaps. By uniting over 50 providers into a monthly collaborative workgroup, the MVP team ensures families are seamlessly connected to housing, medical, and community resources without falling through the cracks.

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Strategic Alliances Sourced from the Community

Housing & Stability

Partners: Adopt-A-Family, Lewis Center.

Impact: Direct referrals for emergency shelter, rental assistance, and permanent housing stabilization.



Basic Needs at Scale

Partners: PBC Food Bank, Soles4Souls, The GIVT.

Impact: Monthly supplemental food bags, 750 pairs of new shoes, and 16,000 pairs of Bombas socks distributed directly to students.



Academic Mentorship

Partner: Communities in Schools of PBC.

Impact: Dedicated academic and graduation coaches placed strategically at 7 district schools to provide tiered student support.



Dignity Initiatives

Partner: Degy Entertainment.

Impact: Visceral, humanizing support through the installation of washers and dryers at schools (like Lake Shore Middle) to provide essential laundry access.



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Additional Resources for Our Families

SDPBC partners with the Cook Center for Human Connection to provide **6000** families with:



Mental Health Series Platform: Access to facilitated webinars with on-demand videos, courses and resources



Monthly newsletter with timely topics and resources



Unlimited Family Coaching: Live 30 minute call each week with a coach, 24/7 text capability with 24 hr response time, and access to ParentGuidance curriculum

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Click on the image to access the full document.

Community Connections

A Student & Family Resource Guide



Safe Schools Department

McKinney-Vento Program | Student Attendance

2026-2027

Welcome to Community Connections

Every family needs support at some point, and knowing where to turn can make all the difference. ***Community Connections*** helps school staff connect students and families with local resources to meet a variety of needs.

Developed by the McKinney-Vento Program and Student Attendance Initiative within the School District of Palm Beach County's Safe Schools Department, this guide reflects our shared commitment to helping students overcome barriers to their education. By connecting families with community resources, we can help improve school attendance and keep students engaged in learning.

Community resources and services may change over time. Before making a referral, please confirm availability and eligibility requirements with the organization.

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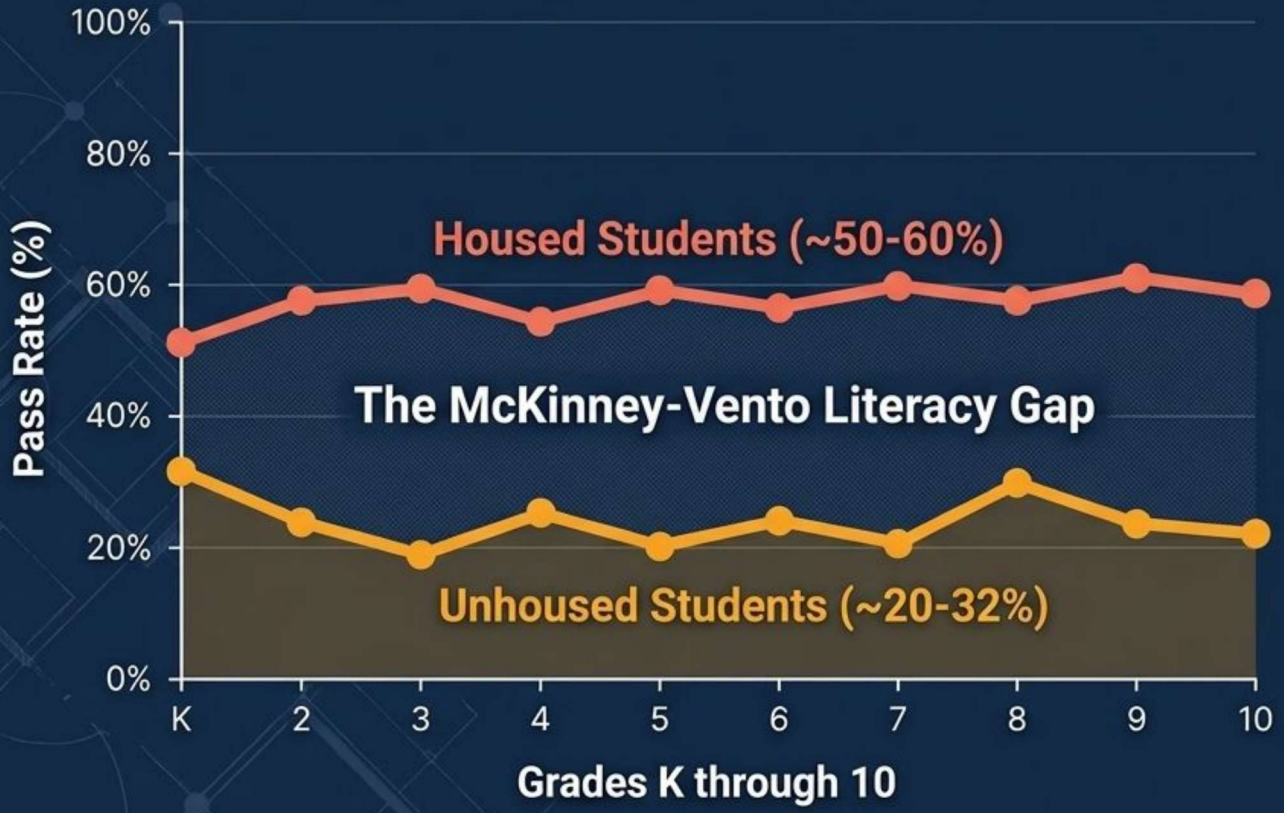
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The Literacy Chasm: A Persistent Gap from Kindergarten to 10th Grade



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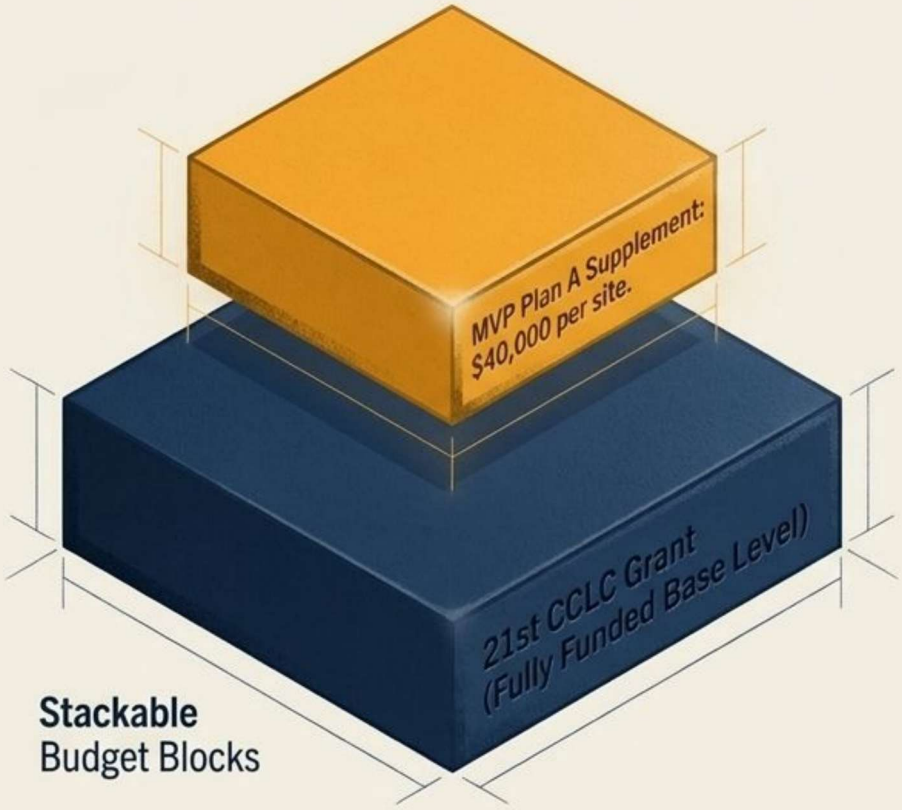
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Targeted micro-funding unlocks comprehensive wraparound support.



Stackable
Budget Blocks

Targeted Intervention: Structured Afterschool Pilot (Plan A)

The Task Force:
Cross-agency initiative identified West Gate & South Grade Elementary for high-need pilot programs.

Equity-Based Enrollment:
Modifying the 21st CCLC "priority points" system to guarantee immediate enrollment for McKinney-Vento students.

The Supplemental Ask ($40,000 per site):

- **Targeted Literacy ($21,235):** Reading Specialist for small-group instruction (170 school days + 23 summer days).
- **Trauma-Informed Care ($13,444):** Dedicated MVP Counselor for behavioral support and parent engagement.
- **Wellness & Materials ($5,321):** Academic supplies, hygiene toiletries, and essential health items.

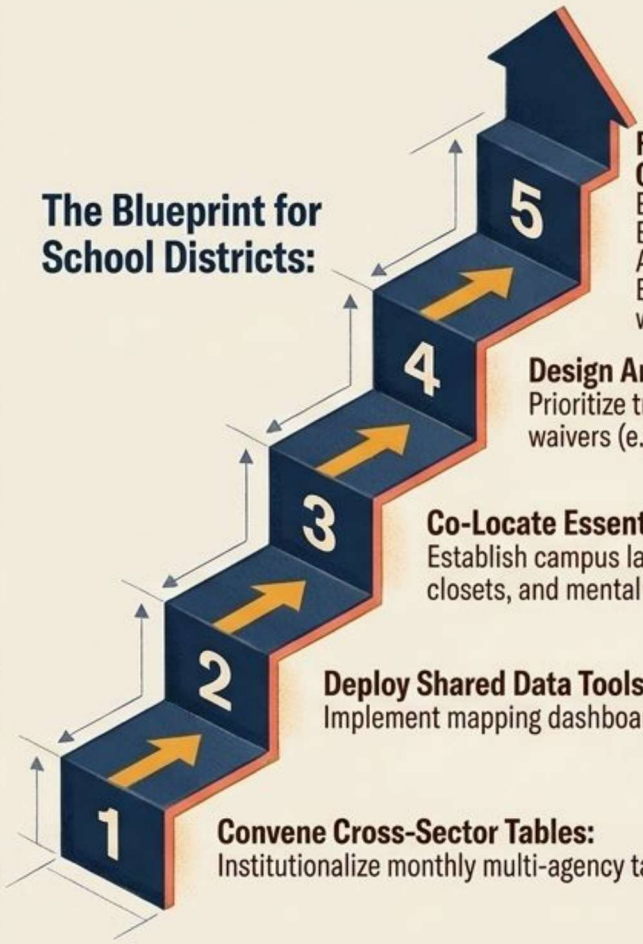
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Stability Creates Success: A 12.5% Graduation Leap
FY24: 82.2%
Graduation Rate
+12.5%
Increase
in a single year
FY23: 69.7%
Graduation Rate for
McKinney-Vento Students
When a community rallies around its most vulnerable, a diploma becomes a reality.
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Replicating the ecosystem demands a structural transition away from traditional silos.

Diagnostic Matrix		
	Traditional Silos	**The Ecosystem Blueprint**
Data	Hoarded in distinct agencies	Shared via FERPA-compliant dashboards
Location	Families travel to services	Services co-located on campus
Funding	Building new isolated programs	Layering supplements on base grants

The Blueprint for School Districts:



Convene Cross-Sector Tables:
Institutionalize monthly multi-agency task forces.

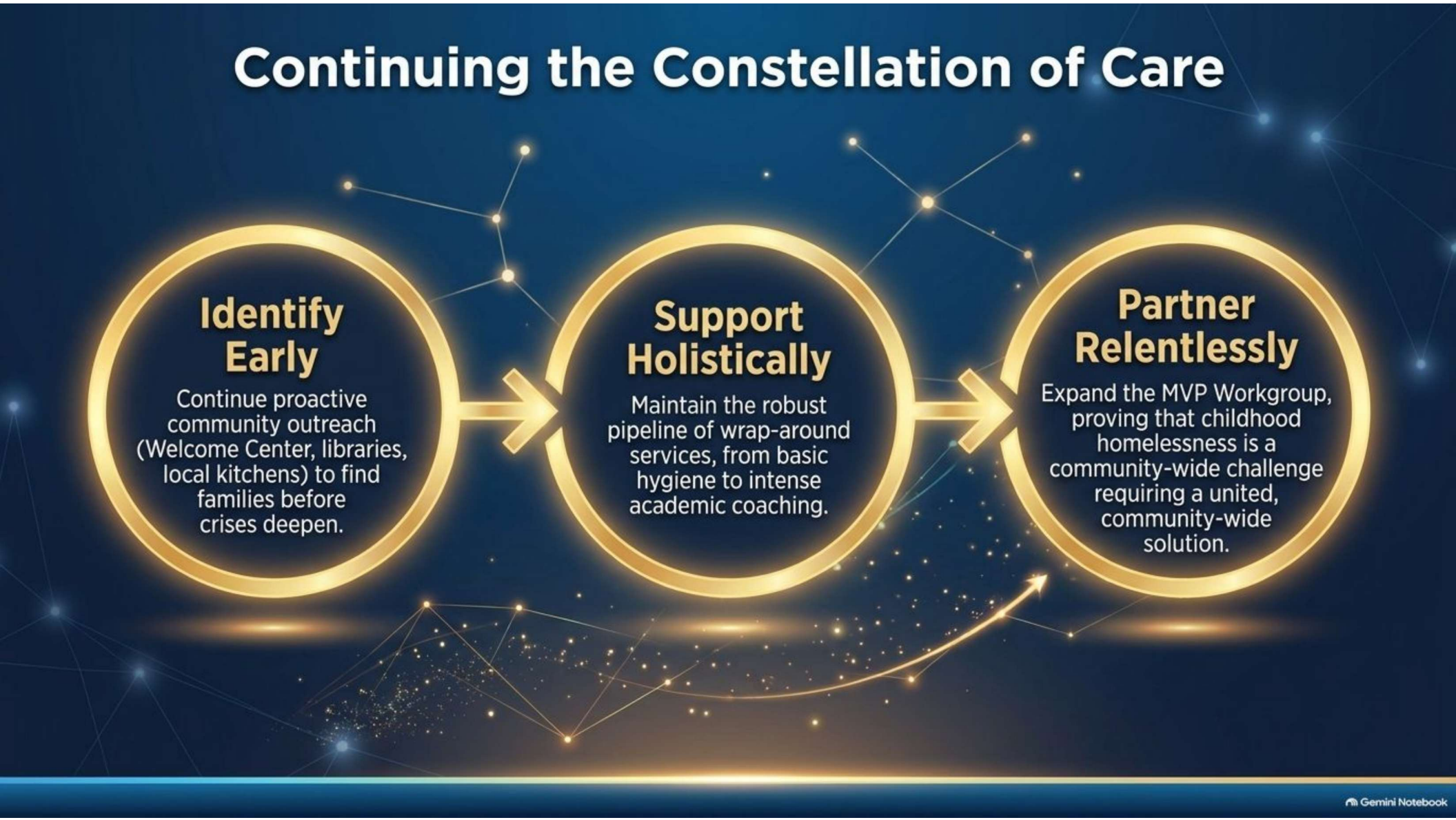
Deploy Shared Data Tools:
Implement mapping dashboards by zip code.

Co-Locate Essential Services:
Establish campus laundry, partner closets, and mental health clinics.

Design Around Core Barriers:
Prioritize transportation and fee waivers (e.g., DCF BG1 codes).

Formalize Institutional Commitment:
Execute clear MOUs, Behavioral Health Agreements, and joint Board/Commission workshops.

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Continuing the Constellation of Care
Identify Early
Continue proactive community outreach (Welcome Center, libraries, local kitchens) to find families before crises deepen.
Support Holistically
Maintain the robust pipeline of wrap-around services, from basic hygiene to intense academic coaching.
Partner Relentlessly
Expand the MVP Workgroup, proving that childhood homelessness is a community-wide challenge requiring a united, community-wide solution.
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