

Supporting Students in Temporary Housing:



McKinney-Vento Act: Meeting the Needs of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Presented By: NYS TEACHS
- Thursday, January 20, 2022
 - 9:30am-11:00am



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Webinar Norms



Your microphone will be automatically muted.



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The in-webinar chat will allow you to communicate with the panelists and the host only.



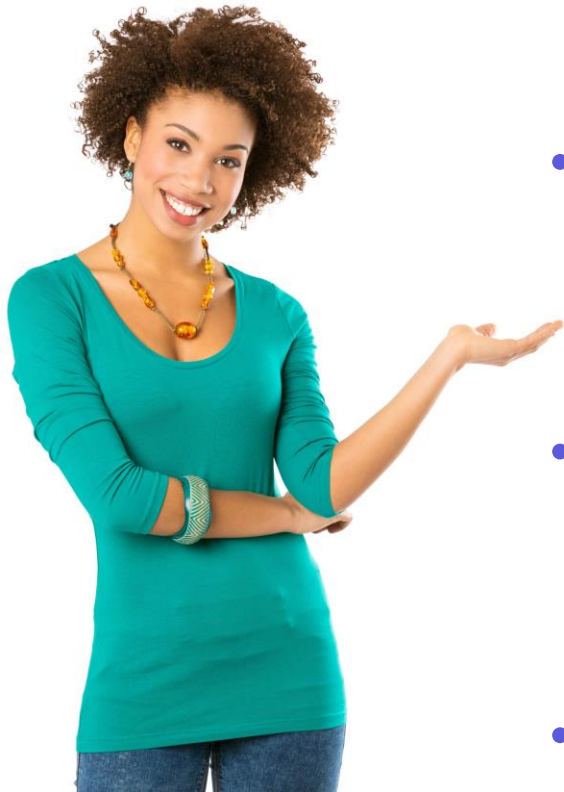
For questions, please email Rita Danis at RDanis@measinc.com. She will get back to you as soon as she is able.



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Housekeeping



- We will launch poll questions periodically throughout the session and ask you to put your answers in the chat.
- We won't be able to answer questions about specific situations in the chat, but we welcome you to call the Help Line to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Help Line is open 24 hours a day. Specialists are available from 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you leave a message, you will be called back by the next business day.
- Following today's webinar, today's recorded session, attachments and Q&As will be posted/accessible.

Who Is In The Room?

Are you a...

- New McKinney-Vento Liaison (1st Year)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (2-4 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (5 – 9 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (10 + years)
- RHY Shelter Staff
- Other School/District Staff



Which region are you from?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| * Western | * Capital |
| * Finger Lakes | * Hudson Valley |
| * Central | * New York City |
| * Southern Tier | * Long Island |
| * Mohawk Valley | * North Country |

Session Outcomes



By the end of today's webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act as it relates to the rights of unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Describe the educational barriers that impact academic growth and determine strategies to ensure success.
- Employ strategies to support the education and social-emotional success of students experiencing temporary housing.
- Use resources to meet the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth.

Today's Agenda



Welcome! Who is in the Room?



Who Are Our Homeless Youth?



Risk Factors for Becoming an Unaccompanied Youth



Determining Eligibility



Strategies for Success



Summary, Survey and Resources



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Who Are Unaccompanied Homeless Youths?



Let's Talk About It

What are some of the challenges that youths face? What supports were provided to overcome the challenges?

In the chat – What aspect of the video resonated with you most?



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Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in America

1 in 10

young adults, ages 18-25, experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That's 3.5 million young adults. About half of those young adults reported homelessness while the other half involved couch surfing only.

Voices That Count <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>



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Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in America

1 in 30

youth, ages 13-17, experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That's about 700,000 youth. About three-quarters of that youth explicitly reported homelessness (including running away or being kicked out), and one-quarter reported couch surfing only.

Voices That Count <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>



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Chapin Hall: Voices of Youth Count

The lack of a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is the number one risk factor for youth homelessness.

29% of homeless youth reported having substance misuse problems.

69% of homeless youth reported mental health problems.

33% of homeless youth had once been part of the foster care system.

50% of homeless youth have been in the juvenile justice system, in jail or detention.

27% of LGBTQ homeless youth reported exchanging sex for basic needs compared to 9% of non-LGBTQ youth who reported having to exchange sex for basic needs.

62% of LGBTQ youth report being physically harmed while experiencing homelessness, while 47% of non-LGBTQ youth reported being physically harmed while homeless.



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Young People Most Likely to Become Homeless

Infographic from Chapin Hall, Voice of Youth Count, [Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America](#)

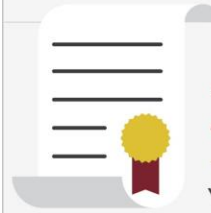


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Figure 5. Youth at Greater Risk of Experiencing Homelessness

Statistics describe the relative risk of certain groups of young adults, 18-25, having reported "explicit homelessness" in the last 12 months.



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED

had a 346% higher risk than their peers who completed high school.

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000

had a 162% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth

had a 33% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

120%

LGBT youth

had a 120% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

83%

Black or African American youth

had an 83% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

200%

Unmarried parenting youth

had a 200% higher risk of reporting homelessness.



Youth Homelessness in NYS

Data reported to the U.S. Department of Education by New York State public schools during the 2018-2019 school year shows that an estimated **148,485** public school students experienced homelessness over the course of the year. Of that total, **5,460** students were unsheltered, **40,822** were in shelters, **2,989** were in hotels/motels, and **99,034** were doubled up.

Total Number of Homeless Students	148,485
Total Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Students	10,643
Nighttime Residence: Unsheltered	5,460
Nighttime Residence: Shelters	40,822
Nighttime Residence: Hotels/motels	2,989
Nighttime Residence: Doubled up	99,034

Source: <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ny/>

Youth Homelessness in NYC

Citywide Youth Point-in-Time Count

Data based on the HOPE Count, NYC Youth Count and the census of all NYC shelters for youth ages 14 to 24

	Unsheltered	Sheltered Emergency	Sheltered Transitional	Total
Unaccompanied (single) Youth*	257	1,693	468	2,418
Parenting Youth	n/a	2,004	11	2,015
Children of Parenting Youth	n/a	2,306	14	2,320
Total	257	6,003	493	6,753

* Based on the HUD definition, unaccompanied youth are young people between the ages of 14 through 24 without children.

NYC Youth Count 2020

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2020_NYC_Youth_Count_Results.pdf

Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in America

Based on the data presented, was there any information that was new or surprising?



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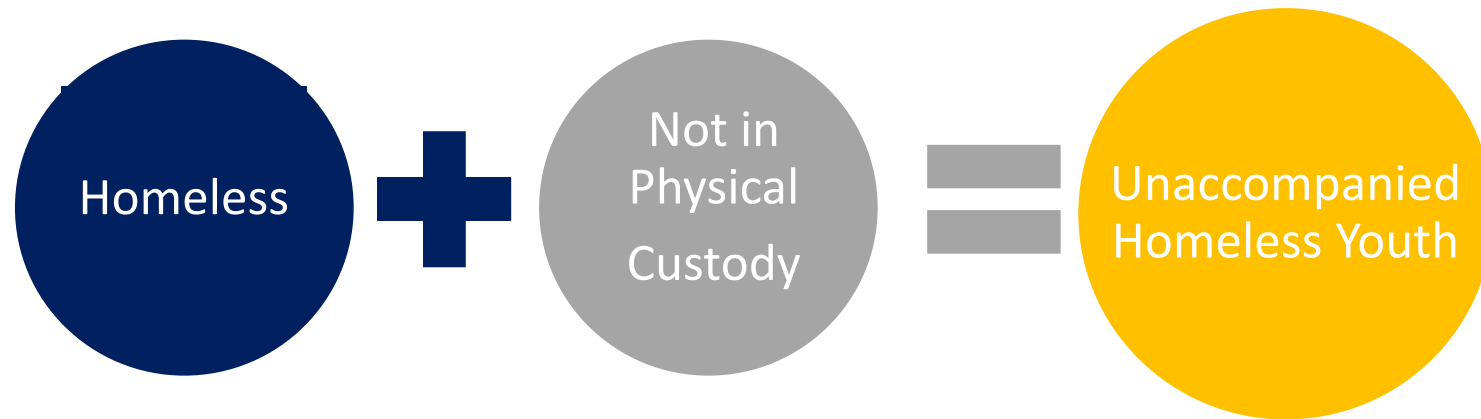


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Definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An unaccompanied youth is a child or youth that is not in the physical custody of/not living with a parent or guardian.

To be eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the youth must also meet the definition of homeless.



42 U.S.C. § 11434a[6]; Education Law § 3209[1][a][1][v]; and 8 NYCRR § 100.2[x][1][iii][6]

Risk Factors for Becoming an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Substance
Abuse

Sexual
Activity/Sexual
Orientation

Parental
Neglect/
Abuse

Incarceration

Family
homelessness

Runaways



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Act states that children and youth who lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” will be considered homeless.



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Homelessness: Living Conditions

- ☐ Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- ☐ Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- ☐ Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- ☐ Abandoned in hospitals
- ☐ Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- ☐ Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- ☐ Migratory children living in circumstances described above
- ☐ Unaccompanied youth living in circumstances described above

**Awaiting foster care removed from definition as of 12/10/16.*

Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i); U.S. DOE's Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question A-2,

Eligible for McKinney-Vento Benefits



Homeless = lacking a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence”.



If any one of these criteria is missing, the student is eligible for McKinney – Vento benefits.



A student may be considered homeless for an unspecified amount of time as long as housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate.

Let's Meet Kimaya



Kimaya is in the 10th grade in the Rochester School District. She leaves her parent's home to move in with her boyfriend in the Greece School District. She comes to the Registrar Office and wants to enroll in school. They call the District Liaison to speak with Kimaya and assist in the enrollment process.

What information would you need to determine if Kimaya is an unaccompanied homeless youth?

Quick Poll

1. Would Kimaya still be eligible for benefits if her parents say that she can return home?
A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure
2. Would Kimaya still be eligible for M-V benefits if her parents continue to provide her with financial support?
A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure



McKinney-Vento Eligible Students' Rights

Receive a free, appropriate public education

Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment, or having missed the application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness

Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents

Continue attending the school of origin, or enroll in the attendance area school if attending the school of origin is not in the best interest of the student or is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested by the parent or guardian, or by the local liaison on behalf of an unaccompanied youth

Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's need



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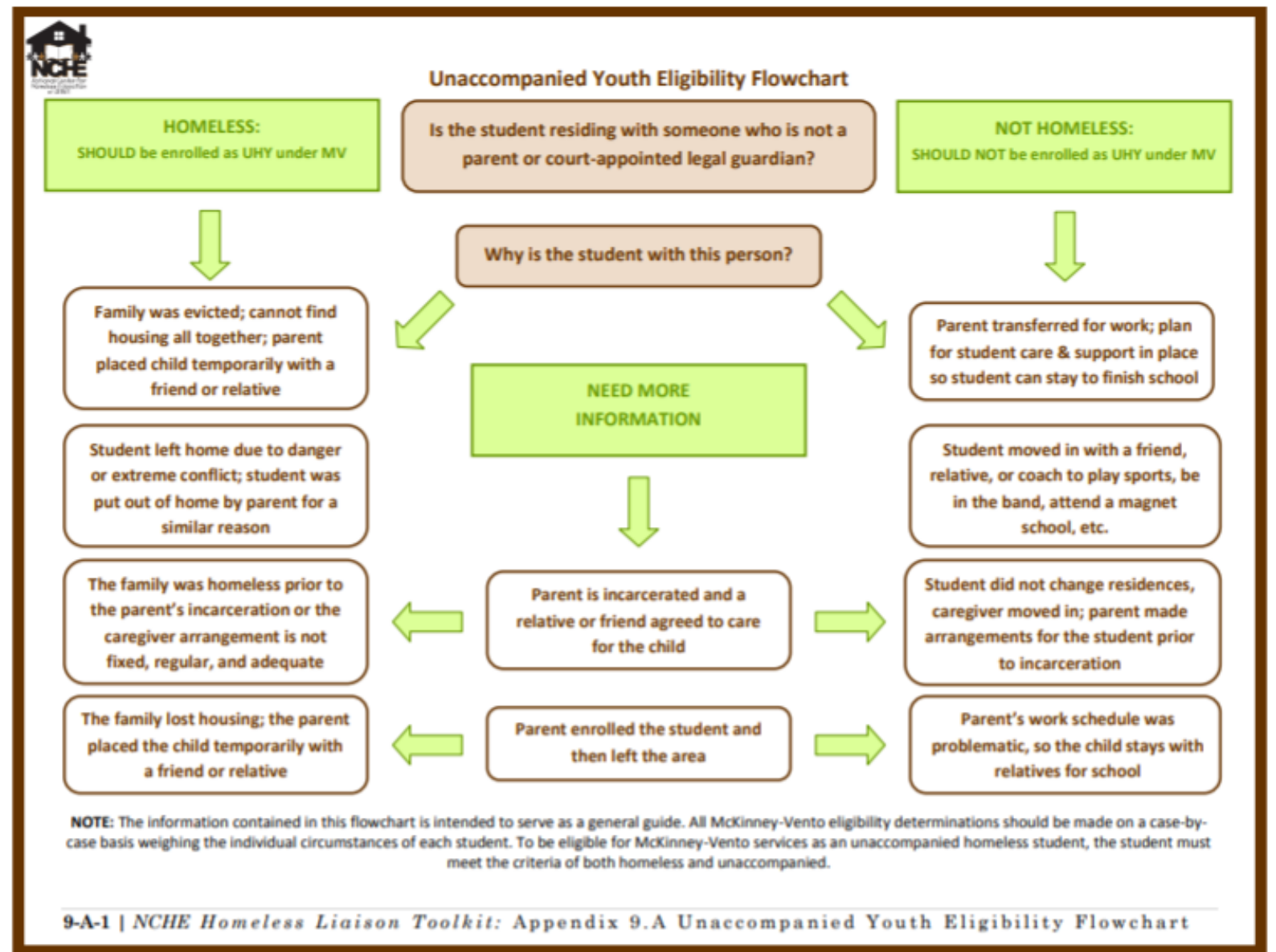
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Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart

A youth may be defined as an unaccompanied youth but does this youth's situation meet the definition of homeless?



Determining Eligibility

- Is the student residing with someone who is not his/her parent, or a court appointed guardian?
 - If yes, continue to the next question. If no, the student may be homeless, but is not unaccompanied.
- Does the student meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento?
 - Homeless is defined as “lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

Determining if a Student Meets the Definition of Homeless

- Why is the student living with someone who is not his/her parent/guardian?
- Is the student placed in this residence as a temporary plan for housing because the entire family became homeless?
- Did the student leave home because of severe family conflict?
- How long can the student continue living where he/she is?
- Does the student have his/her own space/bedroom in the residence?
- Can the student come and go as needed?
- Where would the student live if they are not able to live there?

NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit: Appendix 9A [Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Eligibility Flowchart](#)

Youth Scenarios



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Scenario # 1



David is not living with a parent or legal guardian due to a conflict with his stepfather. He lives with his grandfather with whom he has lived with for a few months. The grandfather is not sure how much longer David can stay because he lives in a senior residence. David is...

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not sure



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Scenario # 2



Olivia's parents died and an aunt and uncle move into her house which is fixed, regular and adequate. The aunt and uncle intend on remaining there until Olivia graduates. Which of the following best describes Olivia?

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not an unaccompanied youth
- D. Not sure

Scenario # 3



Serenity is in the third grade. Her mother was just arrested so she moved in with her aunt. The aunt wants to prevent Serenity from going into foster care. Serenity is...

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not an unaccompanied youth
- D. Not sure

Scenario # 4



Jorge is 17 years old, in the 12th grade and chose to leave home. He has a job and his own apartment that is fixed, regular, and adequate, and it is meant to be a nighttime residence. Jorge is...

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not an unaccompanied youth
- D. Not Sure



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M-V Liaison's Role to Remove Barriers For...



Enrolling

Enroll in school immediately even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.



Attending

Continue attending the school of origin and receive transportation to and from school.



Succeeding

Equal access to the same free, appropriate public education and related services needed to meet State academic standards



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Let's Talk About It

What are some educational barriers that unaccompanied homeless youth face when enrolling, attending and succeeding in school?

Please
respond in
the chat.



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Educational Barriers

Lack of safe
and stable
housing

Lack of
support from a
caring adult

Lack of school
supplies and
clothing

Difficulty
accumulating
credits due to
school mobility

Lack of basic
needs,
including food
and medical
care

Lack of
consistent
access to
bathing and
laundry facilities

Irregular
school
attendance

Concerns
about being
reported to
child welfare



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McKinney-Vento Act: School Selection

Like temporarily housed students, **unaccompanied youth** in temporary housing may have up to **three choices** for school enrollment. They can choose:

1. The school attended when they were last permanently housed, or
2. The school last attended, even if they were temporarily housed during that time, or
3. The local school where they are currently temporarily housed.



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Best Interest Determination

In determining what is in the best interest of the child or youth, the local educational agency (LEA) shall –

- Keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian;
- Provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, to the homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian, if the local educational agency sends such child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian;
- Ensure that the homeless liaison assists the **unaccompanied homeless youth** in placement or enrollment decisions and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)

Enrollment

The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)]

Unaccompanied homeless youth completes the [Housing Questionnaire](#).

3 Ways to Enroll:

- Unaccompanied homeless youth enrolls using self enrollment
- Adult caregiver enrolls using [caregiver authorization form](#).
- McKinney-Vento liaison enrolls the youth.



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Enrollment: School District Responsibilities

LEAs must review and revise laws, regulations, policies, and practices that may act as a barrier to the identification of, or the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of, children and youths experiencing homelessness. [42 U.S.C. § 11431(2)]

- Determine who can sign off on activities enabling the student to fully participate in school.
 - ✓ Leaving school early for doctor's appointment
 - ✓ School absences
 - ✓ Permission slips for extra curricular activities and field trips

Quick Poll #1

Do schools need to notify the parents or guardians of unaccompanied homeless youth during the registration process?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



* Rights to educational records transfer to youth at age 18, with some exceptions.

Quick Poll #2

Do schools need to notify the police when enrolling unaccompanied homeless youth?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



* If you suspect kidnapping, you can immediately see if student has been reported missing at www.missingkids.org or 1-800-THE-LOST

Quick Poll # 3

ENROLL



Can a school require that a caregiver obtain legal guardianship in order to enroll an unaccompanied homeless youth in school?

- A. Yes, in all instances
- B. Yes, if student is in elementary schools.
- C. Yes, if enrolling in a new school district.
- D. No, the school district must enroll youth in school even if they do not have guardianship papers.



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Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- Basic Center Program** that supports emergency shelters for up to 15 days for unaccompanied youth under 18 years old.
- Transitional Living Programs**, which provide long-term housing for up to 18 months and life skills for young people 16-21 years old.
- Street Outreach Program** to provide outreach and services to youth on the streets. Lastly, the law funds the National Runaway Switchboard, trainings for youth workers, and other information and supports. More information about this program is available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb> and <http://www.1800runaway.org/>.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grants/new-york-rhy>

42 U.S.C. §§5701 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. §5712(b)(3); 45 C.F.R. §1351.18(e)

Runaway and Homeless Youth: Transportation

- Transportation from Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Facilities is 100% reimbursable. [RHY Reimbursement Instructions](#)
- RHY facility or District may transport
- For students not staying at an accredited RHY facility are entitled to:
 - ✓ State aid for transportation
 - ✓ Title 1 Part Set-Aside for excess costs



Transportation plays a major part in ensuring school stability!

On-Time Graduation from High School

Students experiencing homelessness - 67.8%

Low-income students - 79.5%

National Average - 85.3%

Students Experiencing Homelessness



Low-income Students

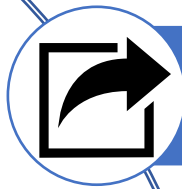


National Average



Source: SchoolHouse Connection

Challenges for Succeeding in School



Frequent school transfers



Inconsistent attendance



Loss or destruction of educational records, and gaps in records



Lack of support and advocacy



Anxiety, trauma, and other mental health and physical health challenges associated with homelessness.

Source: SchoolHouse Connection,



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Let's Talk About It

What are some ways to better engage unaccompanied youth in their education?

Please
respond in
the chat.



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FAFSA: Access to Higher Education

- Identify and remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed at a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies.
- Provide counselor assistance to advise youth and improve student readiness for college.
- Inform unaccompanied youth of their status as independent students when completing the [FAFSA](#) for college financial aid.
- More info on FAFSA and sample verification letters are available at: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/>

8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(7)(iii)(a); see also 42 USC §11432(g)(6)(A); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section F & Questions L- 3, Q-2

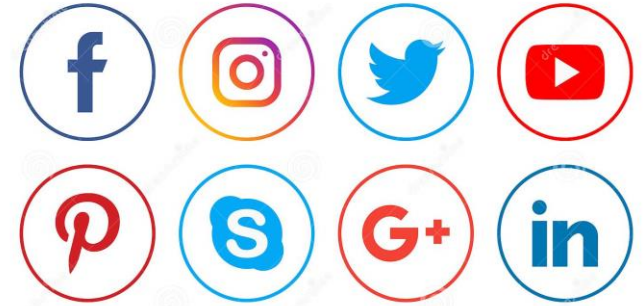
Outreach Strategies



Post outreach materials where youth gather.

I am your District Liaison,
how can I help you?

Include contact information for the District Liaison.



Use social media platforms to communicate ways to support youth experiencing homelessness.

NCHE Brief: *Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Students Experiencing Homelessness*

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth with Special Needs

- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who are homeless, have the same options as other students experiencing homelessness: the student can **stay in their school of origin** or transfer to a local school where the student is temporarily housed. 42 U.S.C. § 1414(d)(2)(c)(i)
- Students in temporary housing have the **same right to special education services** as permanently housed students in the school district. The McKinney-Vento Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) work together to ensure that students in temporary housing with disabilities have their needs met. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(5)(D); 20 U.S.C. § 1401(29)



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Unaccompanied Homeless Youth with Special Needs

- IDEA's surrogate parent provisions for unaccompanied youth help protect students' rights and provide the school district with an appropriate adult with whom to communicate about evaluations and services.
- The school district must appoint a person to serve as a **“surrogate parent”** for students who do not have someone to **act as a parent on matters related to special education**. 20 U.S.C. § 1415(b)(2)(A)(ii)
- [NAEHCY's Surrogate Parents and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#), under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, helps school districts ensure that unaccompanied youth who are homeless and who have disabilities can access special education services.

Check for Understanding



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Check for Understanding #1

The McKinney-Vento Act does not include a specific age requirement to qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth. This may include children as young as five years old.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Not sure



Check for Understanding #2



Tiffany left home without her family's permission. She has just moved in with her boyfriend and his parents.

Is Tiffany an unaccompanied homeless youth?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not sure



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Check for Understanding #3

After their home caught fire Elijah and his mother moved into an emergency shelter.

Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Elijah is an unaccompanied youth.
- B. Elijah is an unaccompanied homeless youth.
- C. Elijah is a youth eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits.
- D. Not Sure



Check for Understanding #4

Twin sisters, Sophia and Isabella, are sent by CPS to live with their uncle after an unsafe situation occurs with their parents. The uncle's home is a three-bedroom house in the same community.

Which of the following is true?

- A. Sophia and Isabella are unaccompanied youths.
- B. Sophia and Isabella are unaccompanied homeless youths.
- C. Sophia and Isabella are not eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits.
- D. Not Sure



Check for Understanding #5

Gianna's mom has been offered a new job opportunity in another state. Her mom has made arrangements for Gianna to live with a relative while she is away. She has given the relative a "power of attorney", or "affidavit of guardianship" that is notarized. This temporary living situation is fixed, regular and adequate.

Gianna is...

- A. A homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- C. Not homeless
- D. Not sure



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Role of McKinney-Vento Liaisons

MEETING THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH



- Remove all barriers pertaining to student enrollment and succeeding in school including school attendance policies, legal guardianship requirements and transportation.
- Assist with the immediate enrollment in school.
- Inform youths about their status as independent students for college financial aid and provide assistance in the process to receive financial aid.

Key Points



What are some key points to remember to meet the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth?



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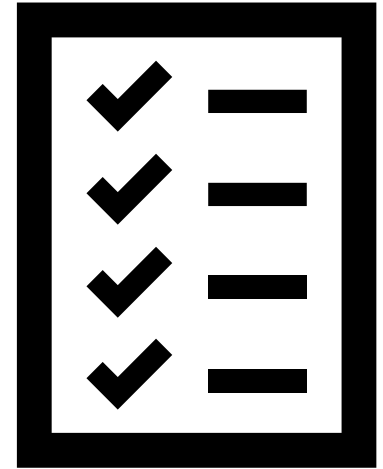


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Session Survey

Please take a few moments to complete our survey.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDoydJUsvxjoVgp3o-C24hyxldwAruUL13Jby0d6Ba9AECaAw/viewform>



We appreciate your feedback! Responses are used in the planning of upcoming Professional Learning sessions.

Resources

- [NCHE Brief: Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Students Experiencing homelessness](#)
- [NCHE Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart](#)
- [Surrogate Parents and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
- How to Answer FAFSA Questions About Homelessness
<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/how-to-answer-fafsa-questions-about-homelessness/>
- The 2022-2023 FAFSA is Out: 5 Tips for Helping Youth
<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/2022-2023-fafsa/>

Technical and Educational Assistance Center

- **Help Line** (800-388-2014)
- **Website** (<https://nysteachs.org>)
- **Web-Based Trainings**
- **Outreach Materials**
 - For outreach materials, email Ailin Mendoza: amendoza@measinc.com



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Next Webinars:

Becoming Trauma Informed

February 17th, March 3rd March 17th

Supporting Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Thursday, March 24, 2022



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