

# Supporting Students in Temporary Housing



Preparing Students for  
Postsecondary  
Education and  
Completing the FAFSA



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

**Presented By:**  
**February 29, 2024**  
**9:30am - 11:00am**



**MI**  
**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Webinar Format



- Today's session will be recorded.



- Your microphone will be automatically muted.



- Your camera will be automatically disabled.



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



*For questions, please email Rita Danis at [RDanis@measinc.com](mailto:RDanis@measinc.com)  
She will get back to you as soon as she is able.*



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Housekeeping



- We will launch poll questions periodically throughout the session and there will be opportunities to answer some questions in the chat as well.
- 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 on the NYS TEACHS website.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Who Is in the Room?

## Are you a...

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



## Which region are you from?

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

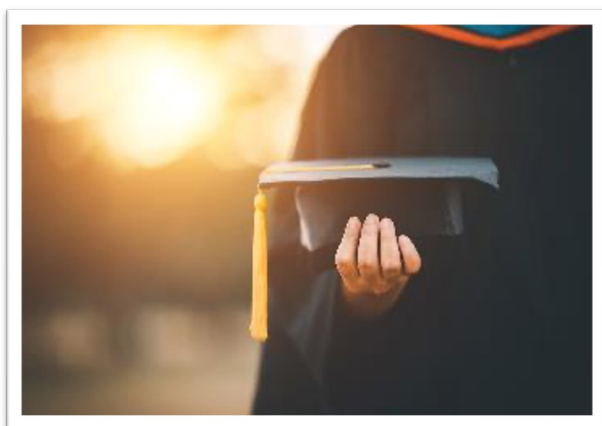


NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

# Session Outcomes

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



- Identify and address challenges that youth experiencing homelessness face in pursuing postsecondary education.
- Support students in completing the “Better FAFSA” and obtaining fee waivers.
- Identify scholarship resources.
- Help students prepare for their transition to college.
- Know how ARP funds can be used to support the transition.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Today's Agenda

 Welcome! Who is in the Room?

 Importance of Postsecondary Education

 Challenges Youth Face

 LEA Support for College Preparation

 Financial Support + FAFSA

 Summary, Survey, and Resources



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Importance of Postsecondary Education

---



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Let's Talk About It

What are your hopes for the students in temporary housing that you work with after they complete high school?

Please respond in the chat.





# College and Other Options

- CTE Programs (Perkins V)
- Vocational and trade school
- Apprenticeships
- Military
- Certificate programs



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED**

# A Tool to Help Students Think Through Their Options



## National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) Education Goals and Supports: A Guided Discussion Tool

### A Guide for Using the Tool



#### Purpose of the Tool

This tool may be used by service providers working with youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness to guide YYA clients through a discussion of their interests and skills. The tool uses motivational interviewing questions to help determine the client's interest in pursuing education, provides online resources to help the client explore education and career pathways and determine possible pathway options in areas of interest, includes information on how to pay for higher education, and recommends next steps towards the client's goals.

The tool can be used during the intake process or later after a client's basic needs have been met. Regardless of a client's readiness to pursue educational goals, the questions in Section 1 may be used to plant seeds for revisiting the discussion at a later time. It is recommended that the service provider and client walk through the tool and record the client's responses in either electronic or hard-copy format.



#### Using the Tool

The tool is broken down into 4 sections

1. **Section 1** asks questions to help determine a client's level of interest in pursuing education.
2. If the client expresses interest in pursuing education, **Section 2** focuses on the client's interests and skills, and provides resources for helping the client connect their interests and skills to possible education and career pathways.
3. **Section 3** shares a selection of resources focused on helping the client pay for their education.
4. **Section 4** recommends next steps for the service provider and client towards the client's education and career pathway goals.

NCHE has developed a tool that you can use to guide your discussion with students in temporary housing:

**Section 1:** Interest in Pursuing Education and a Career

**Section 2:** Interest and Skills Assessment

**Section 3:** Resources to help pay for Education and Training

**Section 4:** Next steps



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

# Poll: What Do You Think?

What percentage of youth experiencing homelessness think that they will be able to attend college?

- A. Approximately 55 percent
- B. Approximately 33 percent
- C. Approximately 16 percent



**NYSTEACHS.org**

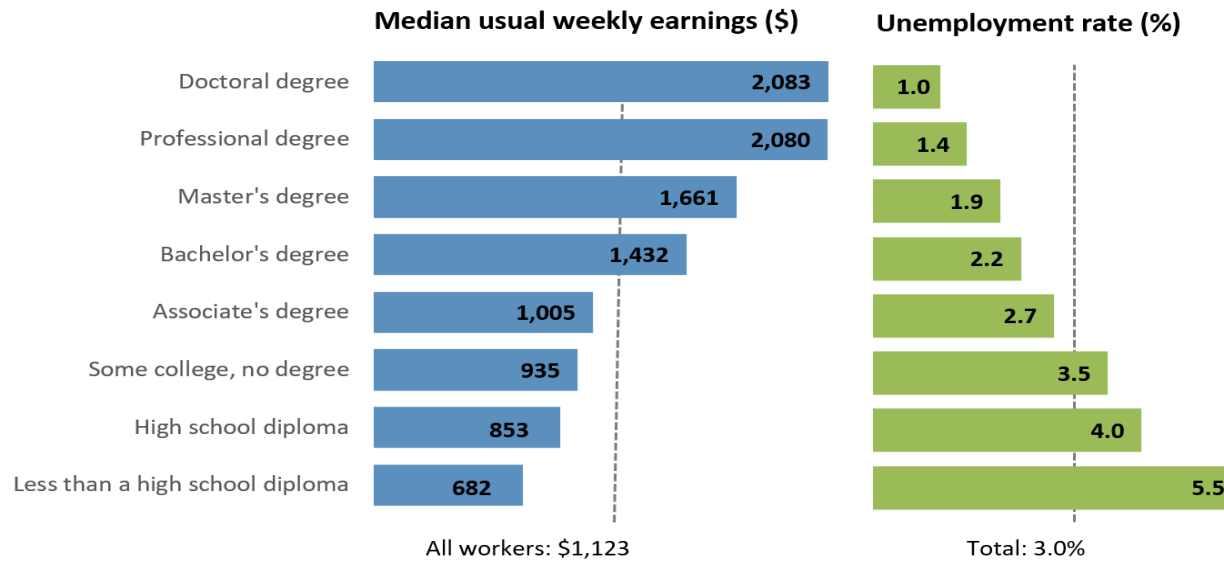
The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED**

# Earnings and Employment

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2022



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.  
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# What Studies Show

- A California Homeless Youth Project (2017) study found that more than 90 percent of youth interviewed specified a career goal that required education beyond high school. Yet only 16 percent said they believed they would be able to attend or graduate college within the next five years.
- A 2016 Government Accountability Office study found that homeless youth experience challenges that make it harder for them to pursue college.
- According to Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count national survey, young adults who experienced homelessness were less than one-third as likely to be enrolled in a four-year college as stably housed peers.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Barriers Voiced by Youth

## Limited supports and lack of a college-going culture in the P-12 system

- Challenges to attaining a high school diploma or equivalent
- Cultural bias and limited counseling supports, due to low expectations

## College affordability

- Difficulty with navigating the college application and financial aid process (see [FAFSA site for students](#) and [NYS Tuition Assistance Program](#) )
- For unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) in NY state, the state's current financial aid system provides less funding to independent students, compared to dependent students

## Limited housing programs for college students

## Feeling they don't belong in college (Kruvelis, 2019)

from [Voices of Youth Count Education Brief](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Other Barriers

- Poor grades, poor attendance, lack of school engagement
- Trauma, lack of basic needs being met, mental health problems interfering with studies
- Lack of space to study or do homework
- Employment
- Difficulty being focused on school while managing the expectations of adulthood



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

## Other Barriers *(continued)*

- Difficulty accumulating credits due to mobility
- Lack of supportive adults to help with navigating systems
- Reluctance to reach out and ask for help
- Lack of information on what postsecondary options and supports are available



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED



# LEA and School Support for Postsecondary Preparation

---



**NYSTEACHS.org**

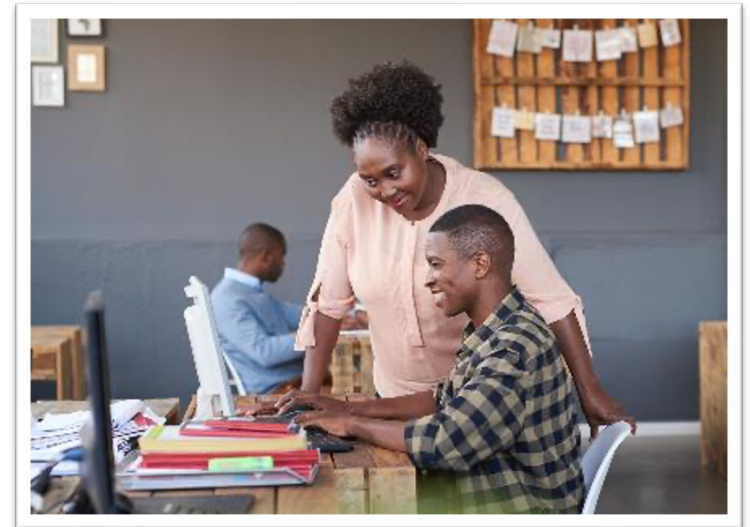
The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# What the McKinney-Vento Act Requires

- LEA homeless liaisons are required to **ensure that UHY are informed of their status as independent students** for college financial aid and that students can obtain assistance to receive verification for the FAFSA.
- McKinney-Vento **state plans must describe how homeless youth will receive assistance from school counselors** to improve their readiness for college.



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# Supporting Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Ensure their basic needs are being met and that they have a safe place to stay
- Address their mental health and trauma needs
- Connect them with an adult they can build a trusting relationship with
- UHY often say that they credit one person, such as the local liaison or a school counselor, as the person that helped them the most get through school.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Supporting Unaccompanied Homeless Youth *(continued)*

- Pay attention to their grades and attendance; follow up frequently
- Provide credit accrual opportunities
  - Work-based learning programs
  - BOCES programs
  - Alternative ways of earning credits
  - Opportunities for flexible or alternative schedules for youth who must work
  - Review state policies for receiving credit for full or partial coursework completed when attending previous schools (NCHE, 2018)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Let's Talk About It

What are some steps you have taken to support students' efforts at preparing for college?

Please  
respond in  
the chat.



# Helping Youth Experiencing Homelessness Prepare for College

- Reach out to students experiencing homelessness as early as freshman year to discuss postsecondary options: “the pathway to college begins in kindergarten.”
- Discuss the students’ needs and goals.
- Meet with youth staying in shelters; provide information to shelter providers.
- Ensure that students are on track to graduate with college preparatory courses.

[Tips for helping homeless youth succeed in college -SchoolHouse Connection](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Helping Youth Experiencing Homelessness Prepare for College *(continued)*

- Ensure that they have opportunities to visit colleges.
- Explore college access programs in your state like TRIO and GEAR UP that provide special opportunities for homeless students.
- Make sure students take the ACT/SAT exam. Most low income and homeless students will qualify for fee waivers.
- Make sure students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Only 22% of the class of 2024 have completed the FAFSA so far this year, down 42% from the number of submissions at the same time last year



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

[FAFSAtracker](https://www.fafsaatracker.org) National College Attainment Network

- 23 -



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Helping Youth Experiencing Homelessness Prepare for College *(continued)*

- Meet with students experiencing homelessness frequently, especially during senior year, to answer questions, serve as a resource, and remind them of deadlines; create a checklist to review each time to keep them on track.
- Help with navigating college application and financial aid systems.
- Help the student develop financial literacy and money management skills.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED



# Let's Talk About It

What do you wish you could offer your students experiencing homelessness who want to attend college?

Please respond in the chat.



# Financial Support for College

---



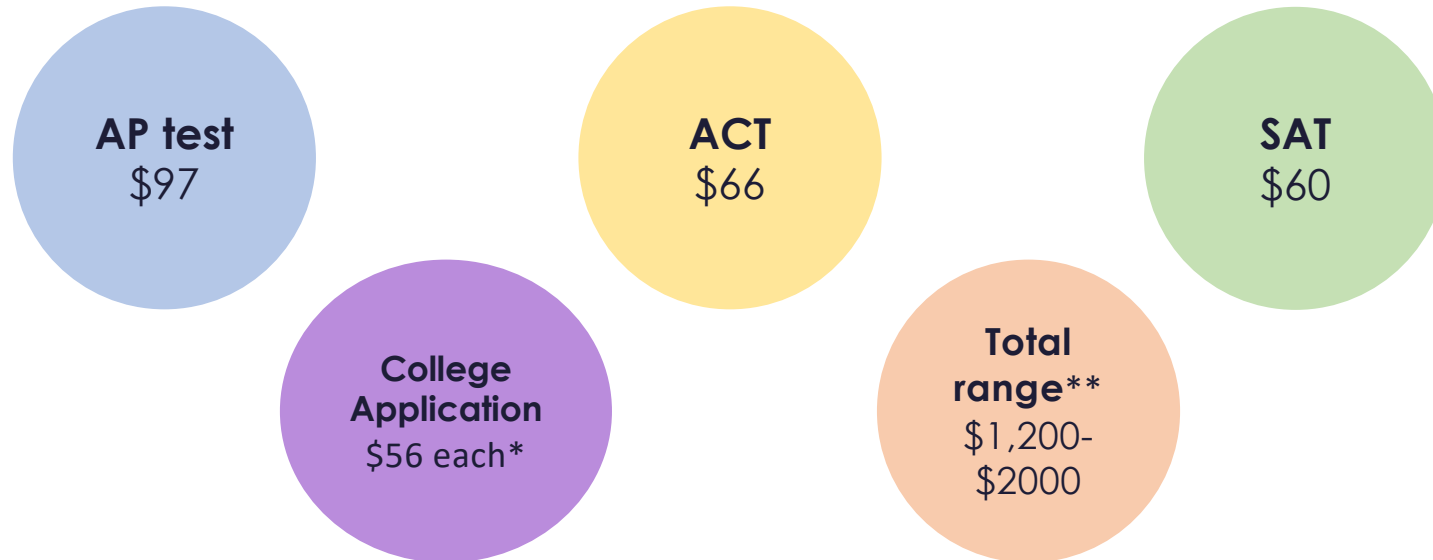
**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# College Fees



\*On average students apply to 5.7 colleges

\*\*Other fees include additional score reports, late fees, registration fees, service fees, study guides/tutoring/prep programs, Total range was reported on CNBC, October 24, 2023



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Fee Waivers - Testing

## Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

- Most four-year U.S. colleges give students credit, advanced placement, or both based on AP Exam scores.
- Waivers are administered at the school; speak with your school's AP coordinator.

**ACT waivers\*** – must be accessed through a school counselor.

**SAT waivers** – must be obtained from a high school counselor or an authorized agency.

\*[ACT fee waiver information](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Fee Waivers – College Application Fees

## College Board Program

- Students who qualify for the College Board's SAT fee waiver also qualify to receive up to four Requests for Waiver of College Application Fee forms.

## National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC) form

- To be completed with the help of the high school counselor
- For graduating high school seniors entering college in the fall
- Same eligibility criteria as the ACT and SAT waivers
- Can be based on income and/or the counselor's knowledge of the family's circumstances



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

## Fee Waivers – College Application Fees *(continued)*

- Most colleges accept the College Board or NACAC waiver forms; however, individual institutions may have their own fee waiver policies that vary.
- Colleges that use *The Common Application* accept the SAT college application fee waiver.
- Some colleges do not charge application fees for students that apply online.
- SUNY and CUNY often have a free application week in October or November when the application fee is waived.
- You may use McKinney-Vento subgrant funds or Title I Part A set-aside funds to pay for AP exam, college entrance exam, or college application fees if other funding sources are not available.



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# Use of ARP Funds for Postsecondary Education

School districts have used the following strategies to help students transition from high school to postsecondary education:

- Add capacity through extra hours for staff or through contracts with community-based organizations (e.g. graduation coaches, FAFSA mentors, transition coordinators, counselors) to help students complete the FAFSA, apply to colleges, and develop a plan for life after high school graduation.
- Pay college students to mentor and provide peer support to current high school students.
- Use funds to bring students on a tour of local colleges in the area.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Use of ARP Funds for Postsecondary Education *(continued)*

- Provide laptops and WIFI hotspots prior to high school graduation to allow students to complete high school while also applying for scholarships, FAFSA, and college.
- Participate in training to stay up-to-date on new FAFSA changes and the implications for homeless youth for the 2024-2025 school year.

Source: SchoolHouse Connection, [Flexing the Flexibility of ARP-HCY: #5 Transition from High School To Postsecondary Education](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED



# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

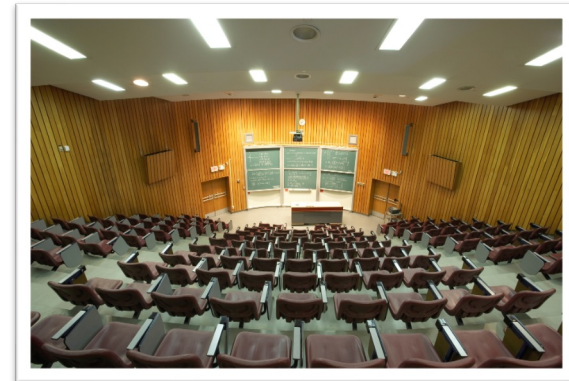
---



# Poll: What Do You Think?

School districts are allowed to assist students with FAFSA and determination letters up through what age?

- A. Until they graduate high school
- B. Age 20
- C. Age 23



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA – The Application Verification Guide

An official website of the United States government. Help Center

Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND® Log In

KNOWLEDGE CENTER TRAINING FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY PARTNER CONNECT SERVICES

2024-2025 Federal Student Aid Handbook Search Entire Handbook Search

Application and Verification Guide	<h2>Application and Verification Guide</h2> <h3>Introduction</h3> <p>This guide is intended for college financial aid administrators and counselors who help students with the financial aid process — completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, verifying information, and making corrections and other changes to the information reported on the FAFSA form.</p> <p>Throughout the <i>Federal Student Aid Handbook</i>, we use “college,” “school,” and “institution” interchangeably unless a more specific use is given. Similarly, “student,” “applicant,” and “aid recipient” are synonyms. “Parents” in this volume refers to the legal parents of dependent students, and “you” refers to the primary audience of the <i>Handbook</i>: financial aid administrators at colleges. “We” indicates the U.S. Department of Education (the Department, ED), and “federal student aid” and “Title IV aid” are synonymous terms for the financial aid offered by the Department.</p> <p>We appreciate any comments that you have on the <i>Application and Verification Guide (AVG)</i>, as well as all the volumes of the FSA Handbook. We revise the text based on questions and feedback from the financial aid community, so please reach out to us about how to improve the <i>Handbook</i> through the “Contact Customer Support” feature in our <a href="#">Partner Connect Help Center</a> clicking on “FSA Handbook” under the Topic section.</p> <h3>Sunset of COVID-19 Guidance and Waivers</h3> <p>Although COVID-19 continues to affect the lives of many Americans, the urgent need for waivers and flexibilities has diminished. The Federal Government ended the national emergency and the public health emergency associated with the pandemic. The COVID-19 national emergency ended on April 10, 2023, through enactment of H.J. Res. 7, Public Law No. 118-3. The COVID-19 public health emergency ended on May 11, 2023.</p>
Sunset of COVID-19 Guidance and Waivers	
FAFSA Simplification Act	
Changes from the FUTURE Act	
Other Changes	
CHAPTER 1 The Application Process: FAFSA to ISIR	
CHAPTER 2 Filling Out the FAFSA	
CHAPTER 3 Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant Eligibility	

Each year the US Department of Education releases an Application and Verification Guide (AVG) for financial aid administrators and school counselors that specifies all requirements for the FAFSA.

[2024-2025 Federal Student Aid Handbook](#)



NYSTeachs.org

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students



MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA – Based on a Student Aid Index

## Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces EFC (Expected Family Contribution)

Based on the information submitted on the FAFSA, ED calculates the SAI

### *Dependent student*

- Must report parent information on the FAFSA
- SAI is based on parent's and student's income and assets

Note that a student who is in temporary housing *with* their parent(s) must report their parents' income on the FAFSA.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA – Based on an SAI (*continued*)

## *Independent student*

- Does NOT report parent information on the FAFSA
- Student Aid Index (SAI) is based on student's income and assets

Note that emergency financial assistance provided to the student for unexpected expenses that are a component of the student's cost of attendance (e.g., food, housing, transportation, etc.) *shall not be treated as "other financial assistance."* Institutions determine what is meant by an emergency for a specific student situation.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Who is an Independent Student?

Someone who is at least one of the following:

- at least **24 years old**;
- is **married** as of the date they apply;
- will be a **graduate or professional student** when the award year starts;
- is currently **serving on active duty** for purposes other than training;
- is a **veteran** of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- **has dependents** other than a spouse;
- was **an orphan, foster child, or ward**; or
- **An emancipated minor or someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless who is not living with a parent.**



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

A youth who

- Fits the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, and
- Is not in the physical custody of (living with) a parent or guardian.



**For FAFSA purposes the definition includes youth *at risk of homelessness*;** for example, a student who is being evicted and/or who has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA Simplification Act

*Per the FAFSA Simplification Act and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, new FAFSA provisions for unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) and foster youth are in effect for the 2024-2025 FAFSA. Here are key changes for UHYs.*

## **1. Homeless status does *not* need to be redetermined every year.**

UHY who are renewing their FAFSA will have their answer carried over/pre-populated into subsequent years' FAFSA form. Students must affirm that this answer is still correct.

The information presented on FAFSA Simplification (slides 40-45) is from SchoolHouse Connection recording (Jan. 16, 2024) [The 2024 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth - SchoolHouse Connection](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED



# The FAFSA Simplification Act *(continued)*

## 2. Determinations of unaccompanied homeless youth status must be made as quickly as possible.

Determinations MUST be made:

- As quickly as possible, and
- No later than 60 days after enrollment  
(i.e., student enrolls Aug. 15, determination must be made by Oct. 15)

Determinations may be made as early as the year before the award year for which the student submits the application (i.e. in 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year).



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA Simplification Act *(continued)*

## 3. The list of officials and programs authorized to verify that an applicant is an UHY has expanded.

- School district liaisons *or their designee*
- Director *or their designee* of an emergency or transitional shelter (does not need to be HUD-funded), *street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness*
- Director of TRIO or GEAR UP program *or their designee*
- Financial aid administrator (FAA) *at another institution* who previously made a determination in same or prior award year (transfer)

Note: *Italics* emphasize new guidance.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA Simplification Act *(continued)*

4. Financial aid administrators must accept documentation from one of the authorized entities listed earlier, unless there is conflicting information.

Documentation from one of the authorized entities may include:

- documented phone call determination
- written statement or letter

If the student has received a documented determination from one of the authorized entities, the institution **MUST NOT REQUEST ADDITIONAL** documentation, proof, or statements, unless it has conflicting information.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA Simplification Act *(continued)*

## 5. Financial aid administrators must make a determination of UHY for youth who cannot get determinations from other authorities.

These determinations must be based on a written statement from, or a documented interview with, a student that confirms that a student is an unaccompanied homeless youth (or unaccompanied, at risk, and self-supporting).

The determination must be made based on the legal definitions of homeless and unaccompanied contained in the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act, and independently from the reasons that the student is an unaccompanied homeless youth, or is a youth who is unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA Simplification Act *(continued)*

## 6. Financial aid administrators must make UHY determinations following the processes outlined in the law - *it is not a matter of professional judgment.*

Per USDE, these decisions are made without regard to the reasons that the student is unaccompanied and/or homeless.

FAAs should keep in mind that a student may be considered homeless if they had to flee an abusive or threatening home environment, or had other unusual circumstances, that resulted in them not having a safe, stable place to live. Even if the parent(s) in such a situation would otherwise provide housing, the student may still meet the definition for unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at-risk of becoming homeless.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# What To Do If A Parent Does Not Have A SSN

For *dependent students* (students in temporary housing with their parents):

**USDE has developed a workaround for students whose parents lack a Social Security number.**

- Students can leave their parent or spouse's Social Security number blank for now, and manually enter the person's income and tax information.
- The workaround is meant to help students meet fast-approaching deadlines for certain state, college, or scholarship applications.
- The department promised a permanent fix is coming next month. It is also urging students who don't have an urgent submission deadline to wait until then. Those who use the workaround will need to take additional steps in March to fully submit their application. [Better FAFSA social security number glitch-fix-announced – Chalkbeat, February 20, 2024](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

[How to Submit the 2024-25 FAFSA Form in your contributor doesn't have an SSN –Federal Student Aid](#)



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Best Practices to Explain the Changes to the 2024-2025 FAFSA

- Conduct a social media campaign, table, send emails, flyers, etc.
- Inform students with SchoolHouse's template
- Identify UHY and provide determinations to students ASAP
- Have students fill out the FAFSA as soon as they can

[The 2024 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth - SchoolHouse Connection](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

## Best Practices to Explain the Changes to the 2024-2025 FAFSA *(continued)*

- Encourage students to reach out to the financial aid office, even if accompanied, to see if there is extra aid or resources available
- Hold financial aid nights/partner with local colleges
- Remind students that the FAFSA needs to be filled out every year
- Partner with homeless higher education liaison or other support programs on campus and share resources to students



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED



# The FAFSA – What Do You Think?

Which of the following positions **cannot** verify if a student is a UHY?

- A. School District Liaison
- B. High School Principal
- C. Director of a Street Outreach Program
- D. Financial Aid Officer at another institution



# The FAFSA – What Do You Think?

A senior comes to you and indicates that he wants to apply to college but adds that he is sleeping on his friend's couch, and he doesn't know if he can count on his parents' financial support. You happen to know his parents and you think they are good people. What should you do?

- A.** Call his parents and alert them to their son's whereabouts.
- B.** Urge the child to go home.
- C.** Make a UHY determination and write a verification letter.
- D.** Wait to see if the situation cools off.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# The FAFSA – What Do You Think?

Which of the following is true of M-V designated students?

- A.** Only students who are UHYs can fill out the FAFSA.
- B.** All students who are M-V designated can be considered independent students.
- C.** Only UHYs can file as independent students.
- D.** M-V designated students who live in temporary housing with their parents are not considered their dependents.



# Recent Delays in FAFSA Processing

Per SchoolHouse Connection, U.S. Department of Education recently announced that **colleges and universities will not receive FAFSA applicant data until March.**

As a result, **students are not likely to receive financial aid offers until early to mid-April** (four months later than usual). This may prevent youth from making decisions about where – or even whether – to pursue postsecondary education.

[Another FAFSA delay - SchoolHouse Connection](#)

Fortunately some institutions (e.g., SUNY and CUNY) are pushing back the date when students need to put down a deposit to enroll.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

# Recommendations to Deal With the Delay

1. Students should still complete the FAFSA and obtain UHY determinations from parties who are authorized to verify homeless status.
2. In mid-March, students should log in to be sure that their FAFSA form was fully processed.
3. Students should wait until they receive a notification stating that their FAFSA has been processed before reaching out to financial aid offices to either
  - provide UHY determinations from an authorized entity, or
  - if they don't have a UHY determination, request one from the financial aid office.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

## Recommendations to Deal With the Delay *(continued)*

4. If students have not heard anything from financial aid by the end of March and/or they cannot log on and review their FAFSA, they should reach out to their financial aid office and set up a one-on-one “status check” appointment.

5. School district homeless liaisons, homeless service providers, child welfare professionals, and others working with homeless youth should keep copies of documentation and keep federal guidance handy when advocating for youth.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Other Financial Aid Opportunities

- Explore private scholarship opportunities – encourage students to check with their high school counselor or FAA at the college they choose.
  - Local and state
  - Those offered by specific colleges
  - Schoolhouse Connection
  - NAEHCY
- Explore state tuition waiver laws and policies ([NYS Tuition Assistance Program](#)).
- *TheDream.US* Scholarships: [Scholarships for Undocumented Students | TheDream.US](#)



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# Facilitating a Smooth Transition to Postsecondary Education

---



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED



# Supporting Students Beyond McKinney-Vento

- Provide them with basic supplies – computer, bedding, school supplies, clothing.
- If they will not be living in a dorm, help them to attain housing and to connect with campus and community resources; ensure they have a plan for transportation.
- Help them plan where they will stay over breaks if dorms are closed.
- Connect the student with a campus student support services staff member or homeless liaison on campus, if one is designated.
- Ensure that the high school mentor or trusted adult will continue to be in contact with their student in college.
- Follow up with students to make sure they are maintaining Satisfactory Academic Requirements; otherwise, they will lose their eligibility for financial aid.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

## Supporting Students beyond McKinney-Vento *(continued)*

- Contact a local college's financial aid office and student services office and offer to provide information on the needs of homeless students and ways the college can support homeless students.
- Share briefs and resources from NCHE and Schoolhouse Connection.
- Share NCHE's form for a documented interview to determine eligibility as an independent student; offer to be a resource to assist with this process.
- Share strategies utilized by other colleges, such as designating a homeless student point-of-contact or offering homeless student case management, opening a dorm over breaks, operating a campus-based food pantry, coordination between campus support programs and the financial aid office to ensure that students are aware of deadlines for completing the FAFSA each year, and raising awareness of homeless students on campus.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Wrap Up

List in the chat the biggest take away you learned from this presentation or one thing that you will do differently to support homeless youth in their postsecondary education goals.



Hear from Jaynee\*

*“Though I have made the most of my circumstances, I am still experiencing homelessness. I still feel the effects of years of complex trauma, mental health struggles, and financial barriers as I work to afford college. Throughout these struggles, school continues to be a critical support for me. I am thankful for my school system, Project UP-START (the McKinney-Vento Program at my school), SchoolHouse Connection, and my debate coach Ms. Charles for their unending support...”*

\* This story originally appeared on Homeroom, the official blog of the U.S. Department of Education. Jaynee is a Schoolhouse Connection scholar.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Wrap Up

*“Because of them and my perseverance, I will be walking across the stage on June 7th as a high school graduate and attending college in the fall.*

*I would say that if you’re reading this and you work with young people experiencing homelessness, know that what you do matters. By showing empathy and providing a safe space for students experiencing homelessness to learn and have their basic needs met, you can help ensure that they too can pursue their goals and find a way out of an often unbreakable cycle of homelessness.”*



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Resources

More  
Information



- [Access to Higher Education for Students Experiencing Homelessness – National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [ACT fee waiver information](#)
- [Another FAFSA delay - SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Barriers to Financial Aid for Homeless & Foster Youth- SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Better FAFSA social security number glitch-fix-announced - Chalkbeat](#)
- [Credit accrual tips NCHE, 2018](#)
- [Email template to notify students- SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [FAFSAtracker National College Attainment Network](#)
- [FAFSA site for students – Federal Student Aid](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Resources *(continued)*

More  
Information



- [Federal Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\) - SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Flexing the Flexibility of ARP-HCY: #5 Transition from High School To Postsecondary Education - School House Connection](#)
- [How to Submit the 2024-25 FAFSA Form in your contributor doesn't have an SSN –Federal Student Aid](#)
- [NYS Tuition Assistance Program](#)
- [Scholarships for Undocumented Students \*TheDream.US\* Scholarships](#)
- [The 2024 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth - SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Tips for helping homeless youth succeed in college -SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Voices of Youth Count Education Brief - Chapin Hall](#)
- [2024-2025 Federal Student Aid Handbook – Federal Student Aid](#)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# ARP-HCY Technical Assistance Center

## The New York State American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Technical Assistance Center at **SchoolHouse Connection**



Tools & Resources



Webinars



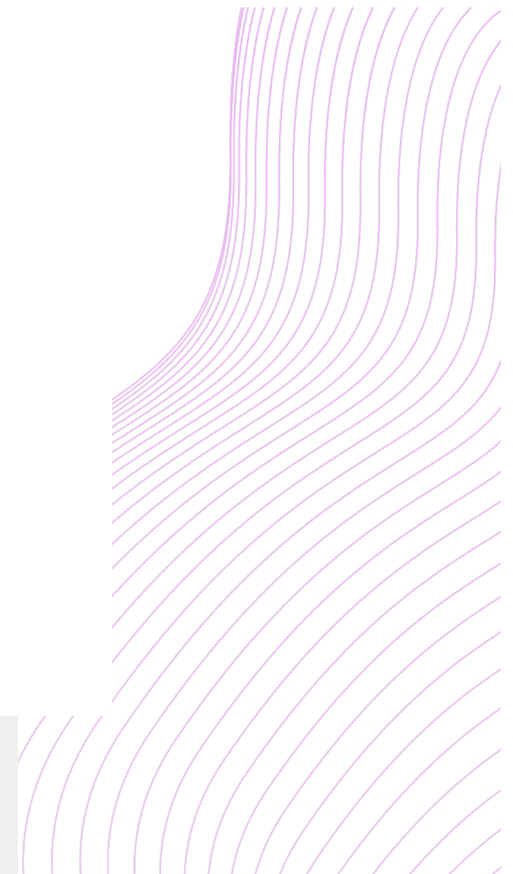
Practitioner  
Community  
Conversations



On-Demand ARP-HCY  
Technical Assistance

American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds must be obligated by **September 30, 2024** and spent by **January 31, 2025**.

Email [arphcyros@schoolhouseconnection.org](mailto:arphcyros@schoolhouseconnection.org) or visit <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/nysed/> to learn more!



# Technical and Educational Assistance Center

**Help Line:** 800-388-2014

**Website:** <https://nysteachs.org>

**Web-Based Trainings:** check our website

**Outreach Materials:** use link below

<https://www.nysteachs.org/order-brochures/brochures-posters>

**Tales from the Field** <https://www.nysteachs.org/>



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED