

FAFSA FRENZY



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The McKinney-Vento Act: Helping Homeless Unaccompanied Youth

Presented by
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What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

- Originally passed in 1987 as the Stewart B. McKinney Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act
- Reauthorized as part of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002
- Provides certain rights to homeless children and youths and their families
- Confers certain responsibilities on State Education Agencies and Local Educational Agencies
- Provides states with funding to help remove barriers to the education of homeless children and youth



McKinney-Vento Act

What is the purpose of the McKinney-Vento Act?

The Act was originally established in 1987, after it was reported to Congress that up to 50 percent of homeless children were not enrolled in and attending school. It was created with the goal of ensuring the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice so that no child is left behind.



McKinney-Vento Act

How does the Act define *homelessness*?

Who qualifies?

According to U.S. Department of Education (USDE) guidance, people living in the following situations are considered homeless under McKinney-Vento:

- Doubled-up with family or friends due to economic hardship
- Living in motels or hotels due to lack of other suitable housing
- Staying in homes for unwed expectant mothers because they have nowhere else to go
- Living in homeless and/or domestic violence shelters
- Participating in transitional housing programs
- Living on the streets or in abandoned buildings or other public places not meant for housing
- Living in cars, trailers, and campgrounds
- Awaiting foster care
- Runaway and/or "throwaway" children and youth



“Doubled up?”

"Doubled-up" refers to people who are living with friends and relatives *due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.*

However, families who have chosen to move into adequate housing situations with friends or relatives for reasons of cultural preference or convenience are *not* covered by McKinney-Vento.



“Awaiting foster care?”

Are children in foster care considered homeless?

- The McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness includes children who are *awaiting* foster care placement only. Once children have been placed in foster care, they are no longer considered homeless.
- Adjudication-varies by county/circuit



What is an “Unaccompanied Youth?”

The term “unaccompanied youth” includes youth in homeless situations who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- Incarcerated parent
- Family issues
- Abandonment, Runaway, Throwaway
- Residential instability
- Drugs/Alcohol
- Abuse/Neglect



What is the responsibility of school districts?

Immediate Enrollment

Schools are required to assist homeless students and their families in obtaining necessary records to enroll in school and to immediately enroll homeless students eliminating delays caused by lack of records or other enrollment requirements.

- Talk with parents and students
- Sign the student up for free lunches
- Get contact information for a family member or guardian
- **Cannot** require proof of residency



What is the responsibility of school districts?

School Selection

- Students can continue attending their *school of origin* the entire time they are homeless.
- After permanently housed, students can continue at their school of origin until the end of the academic school year.
- If a student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent/guardian, the LEA must provide the parent/guardian a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal.



What is the responsibility of school districts?

Transportation

Children and youth experiencing homelessness are entitled to receive transportation to and from the school of origin. The district is responsible for the transportation costs if the school of origin and the temporary residence are in the same district. Transportation cost should be split between the school of origin and the school of residency if district/state lines must be crossed.

Questions to ask...

- What is the school in the best interest of the student?
- How old is the student?
- What are the possible transportation choices?
- Special education bus?
- Shuttle, city bus, or cab?



What is meant by "school of origin"?

- Definition:
 - The school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- For example:
 - If a child was attending school in Sedalia, MO while permanently housed but during the school year became homeless (due to disaster, finances, or other reasons) and was living in a shelter in a different district, the school in Sedalia would be considered the school of origin.



Things you can do...

- Inform counselors, financial aid administrators, and college access providers about the needs of homeless youth.
- Distribute fact sheets on homelessness.
- Invite homeless liaisons and providers to present at state/local conferences.
- Participate in webinars on this topic.
- Include information on homelessness in existing publications, handbooks, and websites.



Things you can do...

Engage and assist students in completing critical steps for college entry!

- Ensure students prepare for, and take, the appropriate college entrance or admissions exam(s) early.
- Assist students in college searches and coordinate college visits.
- Assist students in completing college applications and obtaining needed documentation for the FAFSA.
 - If you are a homeless youth liaison, provide students with verification letters documenting their status - which will make the student “independent” for FAFSA purposes.
 - If you are not a homeless youth liaison, direct the student to the appropriate person in order to obtain the documentation.



Things you can do...

- Organize workshops for parents and students to inform them prior to 12th grade about college affordability, scholarship and aid sources, and financial aid processes.
- Identify and train staff at the school who are willing to learn about financial aid and to serve as a resource for students.
- Help students and parents complete financial aid forms prior to eligibility deadlines.
 - A FAFSA Frenzy event is the perfect opportunity
 - Financial aid officers volunteer at these events and are knowledgeable about financial aid
 - As a Site Coordinator, inform your volunteers about the special circumstances and processes for homeless youth



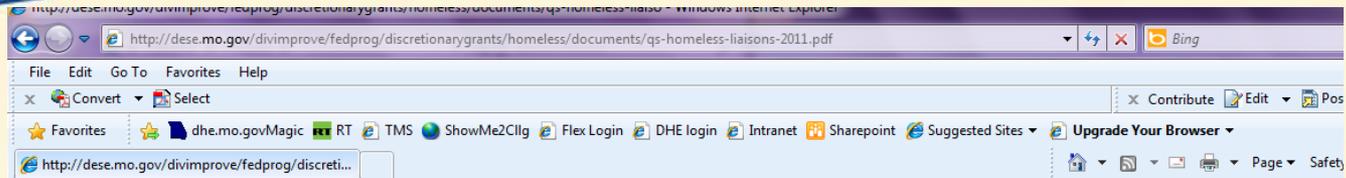
Things you can do...

- Strategies to reach homeless or transitional students:
 - Invite shelters to partner with your FAFSA Frenzy (FF) event.
 - Facilitate transportation from shelters to FF sites.
 - Place your FF posters in shelters, drop-in centers, Laundromats, community cafés, and other places where youth would be found.
 - Provide financial aid information to shelter and housing directors; conduct workshops for youth at shelters.
 - Present financial aid and college access information at state and local homeless conferences.
- **Note:** Youth turnover rates are high, so revisit these activities throughout the year.



Missouri School District Homeless Liaisons:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/homeless/documents/qs-homeless-liaisons-2011.pdf>



SCHOOL DISTRICT HOMELESS LIAISONS

CityDist	District Name	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Email
001090	ADAIR CO. R-I	ANGELA	GUEST	(660) 488-6411	aguest@novinger.k12.mo.us
001091	KIRKSVILLE R-III	MIKE	BARTIG	(660) 626-1440	MBartig@KIRKSVILLE.K12.MO.US
001092	ADAIR CO. R-II	Shelly	Shipman	(660) 323-5272	shelly_shipman@brashear.k12.mo.us
002089	NORTH ANDREW CO. R-VI	MARK	MCDANIEL	(816) 567-2527	mmcdaniel@northandrew.org
002090	AVENUE CITY R-IX	JERRY	ARCHER	(816) 662-2305	jarcher@aces.k12.mo.us
002097	SAVANNAH R-III	TIM	MATTSON	(816) 324-3144	tmattson@savannahr3.com
003031	TARKIO R-I	TRACY	COOPER	(660) 736-4118	cootra@tarkio.k12.mo.us
003032	ROCK PORT R-II	JEFF	BLACKFORD	(660) 744-6296	jblackford@rockport.k12.mo.us
003033	FAIRFAX R-III	MARISA	HEDLUND	(660) 686-3437	mhedlund@fairfaxk12mo.us
004106	COMMUNITY R-VI	ARLEN	PROVANCHA	(573) 492-6223	provancha@cr6.net
004109	VAN-FAR R-I	JODY	HORNER	(573) 594-2731	jhorner@vf.k12.mo.us
004110	MEXICO 59	KEVIN	FREEMAN	(573) 581-3773	kfreeman@mexico.k12.mo.us
005120	WHEATON R-III	JIM	GREEN	(417) 652-7249	jgreen@wheaton.k12.mo.us
005121	SOUTHWEST R-V	WANDA	SMITH	(417) 826-5167	wsmith@swr5.k12.mo.us
005122	EXETER R-VI	ROBERT	TAYLOR	(417) 835-3745	rtaylor@exeter.k12.mo.us
005123	CASSVILLE R-IV	AMY	STEPHENSON	(417) 847-4008	ASTEPHENSON@CASSVILLE.K12.MO.US
005124	PURDY R-II	KAITLYN	WHITEHEAD	(417) 442-3215	kwhitehead@purdy.k12.mo.us
005127	SHELL KNOB 78	JULIE	WINBORN	(417) 858-6743	jwinborn@sks.k12.mo.us
005128	MONETT R-I	ELAINE	ONEAL	(417) 235-4246	eoneal@monett.k12.mo.us
006101	LIBERAL R-II	SHERRIE	BEASLEY	(417) 843-5865	sherriebeasley@liberal.k12.mo.us
006103	GOLDEN CITY R-III	KEVIN	BALDWIN	(417) 537-4900	kbaldwin@goldencity.k12.mo.us
006104	LAMAR R-I	ADDIE	RATCLIFF	(417) 681-0613	cracliff@lamar.k12.mo.us
007121	MIAMI R-I	SALLY	RICHARDSON	(660) 267-3484	srichardson@miami-eagles.k12.mo.us
007122	BALLARD R-II	JOHN	SIEBENECK	(816) 297-2656	jksballard@gmail.com
007123	ADRIAN R-III	ELLEN	CONNOR	(816) 297-2158	ellen.connor@adrian.k12.mo.us



For more information, visit:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/homeless/>



More Resources:

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

<http://www.naehcy.org/>

National Center for Homeless Education

<http://center.serve.org/nche/>



Missouri's State Homeless Coordinator

- **Donna Cash** (Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)
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 - http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/homeless/homeless_subscribe.htm