



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth (MKV) Program access to Higher Education



Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended

ROLE OF THE OSSE

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has the statutory responsibility to assure that all school-aged children, residing in the District of Columbia, receive an appropriate education.

Overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth (MKV) Program

AGENDA

- Purpose
- Eligibility
- Barriers
- Role of Local Liaison
- Key Provisions
- Higher Education Fees
- FAFSA
- Accompanied vs. Unaccompanied

PURPOSE OF THE MKV PROGRAM

The MKV program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school, including Higher Education.

AGENDA



Purpose

- Eligibility
- Barriers
- Liaisons
- Key Provisions
- Higher Education Fees
- FAFSA
- Accompanied vs. Unaccompanied

Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - Abandoned in hospitals

Eligibility— Who is Covered? (cont.)

- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in above circumstances

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Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth



Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

- Enrollment requirements (school records, immunizations, proof of residence and guardianship)
- High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and educational continuity
- Lack of access to programs
- Lack of **transportation**
- Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- Prejudice and misunderstanding

AGENDA



Purpose



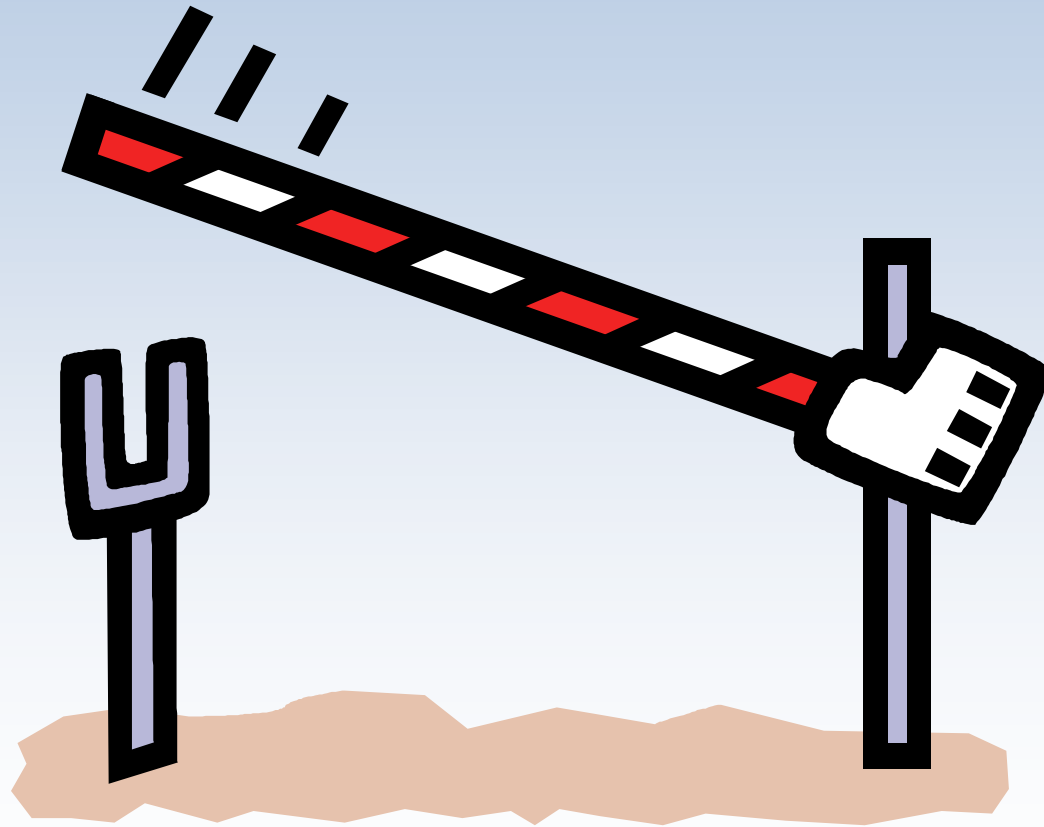
Eligibility



Barriers

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Local Homeless Education Liaisons



Local Homeless Education Liaisons

- Every LEA, whether or not it receives a McKinney-Vento sub grant, **must designate a local liaison** for homeless children and youth.

Local Homeless Education Liaisons

- Responsibilities
 - Ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified
 - Ensure that homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
 - Link with educational services, including preschool and health services

Local Homeless Education Liaisons (cont.)

- Inform **parents, guardians, or youth** of educational and parent involvement opportunities
- Post **public notice** of educational rights
- Resolve **disputes**
- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of **transportation services**, including the school of origin

AGENDA



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KEY PROVISIONS



KEY PROVISIONS —School Stability

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness can **stay in their school of origin or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend**, according to their best interest
- School of origin—school attended when permanently housed or in which **last enrolled**
- Best interest— **keep homeless students** in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless this is against the parents' or guardians' wishes

KEY PROVISIONS — *School Selection*

- Students can stay in their school of origin **the entire time they are homeless**, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing
- If a student becomes homeless in **between academic years, he or she may continue** in the school of origin for the following academic year
- If a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, the district must provide a **written explanation** to the parent or guardian of its decision and the right to appeal

KEY PROVISIONS — Transportation

- LEAs **must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent's or guardian's request** (or at the liaisons request for unaccompanied youth)
- Transportation assistance must be provided whether or not the LEA receives a grant.
- Even if the LEA does not provide transportation to any of their other students, the LEA must still provide transportation assistance to their homeless students.
- Transportation for preschool children is provided at the discretion of the LEA since they are not considered school-aged according to DC law.

KEY PROVISIONS — Resolution of Disputes

- Every state must **establish dispute resolution procedures**
- When a dispute over enrollment arises, the student must be **admitted immediately** to the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved
- Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are enrolled immediately while the dispute is being resolved

KEY PROVISIONS — Homeless Unaccompanied Youth

- Definition: youth who meets the definition of homeless, are under the age of 24, and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's wishes, and inform the youth of his or her right to appeal
- School personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth (on a need to know basis)

KEY PROVISIONS — Access to Services

- **Undocumented children** and youth have the same right to attend public school as U.S. citizens and are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act to the same extent as other children and youth (*Plyler v. Doe*)

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Homeless Youth and Higher Education Fees

Advanced Placement Courses:

- Homeless Students are eligible to have Advanced Placement class fees waived.
- Speak with the school's Advanced Placement Coordinator.

Homeless Youth and Higher Education Fees

The American College Test (ACT):

- In order to receive a waiver for the ACT, a homeless student must be:
 1. Enrolled in High School in the 11th or 12th grade
 2. A U.S. Citizen
 3. Demonstrate economic need
- The ACT waiver can be used up to two times and covers basic fees.
- Access to the ACT waiver can be requested through the high school counselor.

Homeless Youth and Higher Education Fees

Scholastic Assessment Test or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT):

- In order to receive a waiver for the SAT, a homeless student must be:
 1. Enrolled in High School in the 11th or 12th grade for the general test and grades 9-12 for the subject test.
 2. A U.S. Citizen
 3. Demonstrate economic need
- The SAT waiver can be used up to two times for the general test and two times for the subject test and covers basic fees.
- \$40 discount for the official online course.
- Access to the SAT waiver can be requested through the high school counselor.

Homeless Youth and Higher Education Fees

College Application Fees:

- If a student qualifies for an ACT or SAT waiver, they usually qualify for a college application fee waiver.
- The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) provides the application fee waiver form entitled “Request for Application Fee Waiver”.
- The NACAC form can be found at:
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/applications/fee-waivers>
- Most colleges follow the NACAC waiver guidelines, but some may have their own form.
- Some colleges may waive the application fee if you apply online.

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Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- The FAFSA is a form that can be filled out annually to current and prospective college students to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.
- Aid is determined based upon the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

AGENDA



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Key Provisions



Higher Education Fees



FAFSA

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Accompanied vs. Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



Accompanied Homeless Youth

- Accompanied homeless youth are considered “dependent” and must provide parental information on the FAFSA.
- Information includes parental income. However, lower income usually results in more assistance because of the low EFC.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- For financial aid purposes, unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) are:
 - Homeless or at risk of homelessness and are not in the physical custody of their parent or guardian.
 - Independent students - can apply for federal aid without parental income information or signature.
- What makes UHY different from other independent populations on the FAFSA?
 - Parental contact
 - Grey Area (at risk)
- What about youth between 21 & 24 years of age?
 - Students who are older than 21 but not yet 24 and who are unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless qualify for a dependency override.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Most universities will require a form of verification.
- If you choose to verify, authorized entities are:
 - a McKinney-Vento Act school district liaison
 - a HUD homeless assistance program director or their designee
 - a Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program director or their designee
 - a Financial Aid Administrator (FAA).

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Making Determinations:

- There is no prescribed documentation for financial aid evaluation of living arrangements, but it must demonstrate that student meets the definition
- Determination may be made on the basis of a documented interview with the student if no written documentation is available
- FAAs may rely upon a determination from another school where the student met the definition

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Financial Aid Administrators:

- If a student does not have, and cannot get, verification from a liaison, RHYA provider, or HUD provider, a financial aid administrator must make the determination of homeless/unaccompanied status
- This is NOT a professional judgment or a dependency override
- A student living in a dormitory who would otherwise be homeless should be considered homeless
- A student fleeing abuse and living in homeless living situations may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide a place to live

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification Form

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification For the Purposes of Federal Financial Aid

Re:

DOB:

SSN:

Current Mailing Address of Student (if none, please list name, phone number, and mailing address of current contact): ____

I am providing this letter of verification as a (check one):

- A McKinney-Vento School District Liaison
- A director or designee of a HUD-funded shelter: _____
- A director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter: _____
- A financial aid administrator: _____

As per the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), I am authorized to verify this student's living situation. No further verification by the Financial Aid Administrator is necessary. Should you have additional questions or need more information about this student, please contact me at the number listed above.

This letter is to confirm that _____ was:

Check one:

- an unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, 2010









This means that, after July 1, 2010, NAME OF STUDENT was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Act, and was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness after July 1, 2010.

This means that, after July 1, 2010, NAME OF STUDENT was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, provides for his/her own living expenses entirely on his/her own, and is at risk of losing his/her housing.

Authorized Signature: Print Name: Ja'Sent Brown	Date: Telephone Number: 202-654-6123
Title: Program Manager	
Agency: DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education	

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Sources/Resources

- LEGISLATION: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html>
- GUIDANCE: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf>
- OSSE WEBSITE:
<http://osse.dc.gov/service/education-homeless-children-and-youth-program>
- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth: www.naehcy.org
- NAEHCY Higher Education: <http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/helpline>
- National Association for College Admission Counseling: <http://www.nacacnet.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Questions



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Community Learning and School Support

Elementary and Secondary Education

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

Government of the District of Columbia