

# Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness

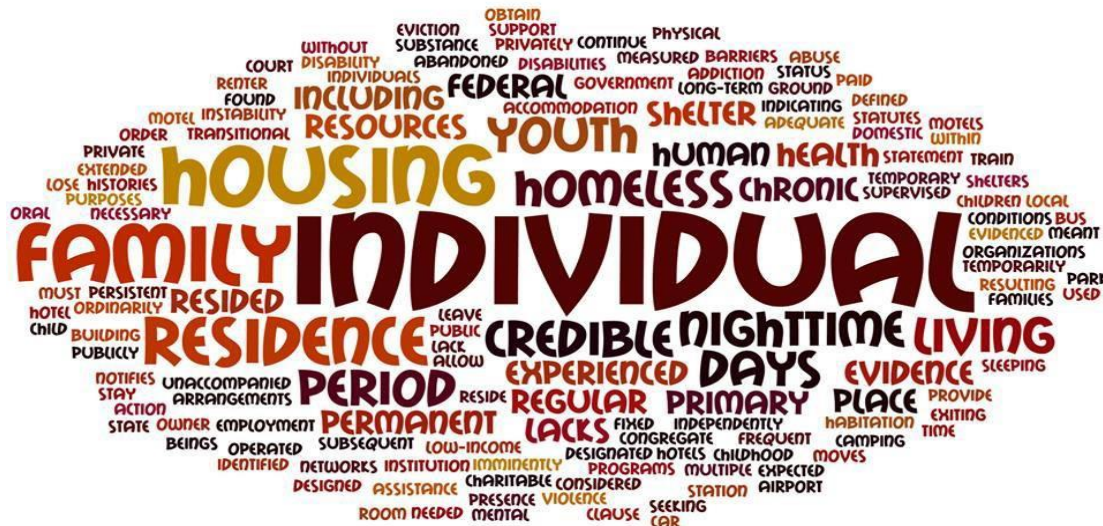
The Right to a Free and  
Appropriate Public  
Education

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# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- I. Causes & Impact of Homelessness**
- II. McKinney-Vento Act**
- III. Who Qualifies and their Rights**
- IV. Roles and Resources**

**Poverty** in *combination with* illness, disabilities, disaster, violence, crime, war and extreme family conflict drive homelessness.



# CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Lack of  
Affordable  
Housing



Health  
Problems



Addiction



Fleeing  
Domestic  
Violence



Poverty



Natural  
Disaster



*In the case of homeless youth:*

- Abuse
- Neglect
- Family dysfunction

# HOMELESSNESS

## IN THE UNITED STATES


40%

of the homeless population are under 18.

50% of youth in shelters reported *intense conflict* or *physical harm* by a family member as contributing to their homelessness.



of homeless kids spend at-least 1 day every month without food.



20,000 kids are forced into prostitution by human trafficking networks every year.

# FOSTER CARE STATISTICS



More than  
1 out of every 4  
former foster  
children become  
homeless after  
leaving the system.

- In Michigan there are nearly 31,000 cases of child abuse and/or neglect
- In Michigan there are nearly 14,000 children in foster care
- More than 3,000 children in Michigan are waiting for permanent, loving homes to call their own each year
- In Kent County there are currently 932 children in foster care. On average 3 children come into foster care every day in Kent County
- IN GRPS we had an estimated 500+ students in foster care last school year

# HOMELESSNESS IN GRAND RAPIDS



During 2019-2020 school year  
684 students were homeless

During the 2018-19 school year  
669 students were homeless

# IN GRAND RAPIDS

- Degage Ministries provides services to female residents of Kent County who are 18 yrs. of age and older- <http://www.degageministries.org>
- Guiding Light Mission for Men offers shelter for men who want to re-engage with society - [www.lifeonthestreet.org](http://www.lifeonthestreet.org)
- Mel Trotter Ministries provides shelter, food, clothing, education, etc.. For men and women in need throughout our community - [www.meltrotter.org](http://www.meltrotter.org)
- Inner City Christian Feferation (ICCF) has 5 apartments for families. All referrals are through the Salvation Army - [www.iccf.org](http://www.iccf.org)
- Safe Haven Ministries Domestic Violence only emergency shelter for women and their children - [www.safehavenministries.org](http://www.safehavenministries.org)
- The Bridge for Runaways work with youth who are runaway, homeless, or otherwise without a safe shelter- <https://arborcircle.org/>



# LGBTQ Youth

have a heightened risk of violence, abuse and exploitation

- **More** than 30% of LGBT youth report at least one suicide attempt per year
- Discrimination follows them into adulthood – when attempting to rent or buy a home, **one** in **five** have been denied. **One** in **ten** have been evicted

**40%**  
of homeless  
students  
identify as  
**LGBTQ** and  
are forced to  
leave home  
due to family  
rejection.

# MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

## **Dated:**

Originally passed in 1987  
reauthorized under the ESSA  
of 2015

## **Purpose:**

Protects the rights of  
homeless children and youth

- Outlines the responsibilities of the state coordinator, district liaison, and school district in serving students experiencing homelessness



# McKinney-Vento

Serving Students In Transition

# WHO QUALIFIES

## **Children who:**

Lack a “fixed”, “regular” and “adequate nighttime residence”

- Shared housing or ‘doubled up’,
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds
- Living in public or private place not designed for humans to live (cars, parks, abandoned buildings, etc.)
- Transitional housing programs & shelters
- Runaway youth or any unaccompanied youth



# McKinney-Vento Services

School  
Enrollment



Backpacks &  
School  
Supplies



School Meal  
Assistance



The Liaison focuses  
support on school  
readiness and student  
success to include:

Transportation



Uniform  
Assistance



## **Presume:**

Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest

## **Prioritize:**

Give priority to the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth's request

## **Consider:**

Consider student-centered factors including the impact of mobility on education, health and safety

**Maintaining  
the best  
interest of  
the student**

# Academic Success

## **LEA's must:**

- Coordinate McKinney-Vento and special education services
- Establish procedures to ensure MV students receive appropriate full or partial credits
- Coordinate with Title I, Part A Services

It takes  
students

**4-6**

**Months**

To recover  
academically  
after  
changing  
schools.

# SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

**McKinney-Vento Act** requires public schools to immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness even when lacking:

- Proof of residency
- Guardianship papers
- Birth certificates
- School records and/or transcripts
- Medical records, including immunization records
- Required dress code items, including uniforms

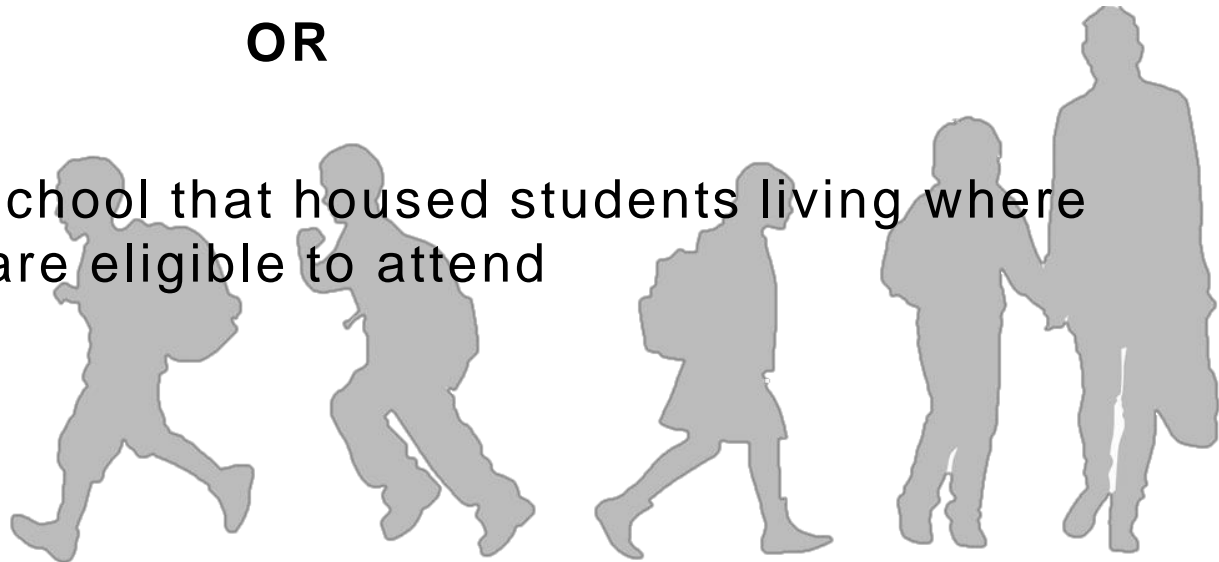
# SCHOOL STABILITY

*Based on a student's best interest, LEAs shall:*

Continue education in the original school for the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed

**OR**

Enroll in any public school that housed students living where the student is living are eligible to attend





# IDENTIFICATION

## School Staff

- School nurses
- Front office staff
- Truancy/attendance officers
- Public Safety Officers
- KSSN staff
- Cafeteria staff
- Bus drivers
- School social workers and counselors
- Teachers and aides
- Administrators

## Methods

- Post outreach materials and posters in schools and community locations
- Coordinate with agencies and organizations
- Housing questionnaires

## Your Role

- Daily point of contact

*\*Information about a McKinney-Vento Student's living situation is subject to FERPA*

# DISPUTES

- Eligibility
- School selection
- Enrollment

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, “What are you doing?”

The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean.

The surf is up and the tide is going out.

If I don’t throw them back, they’ll die.”

“Son,” the man said, “don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?

You can’t make a difference!”

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf.

Then, smiling at the man, he said...

“I made a difference for that one.”

## THE STARFISH STORY



Story By:  
Loren Eisley

# RESOURCES

## **National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE):**

creates and distributes valuable and informative resources dealing with the issue of the education of homeless children and youth.



# Contact Information

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Homeless Program

<https://www.grps.org/homeless>

