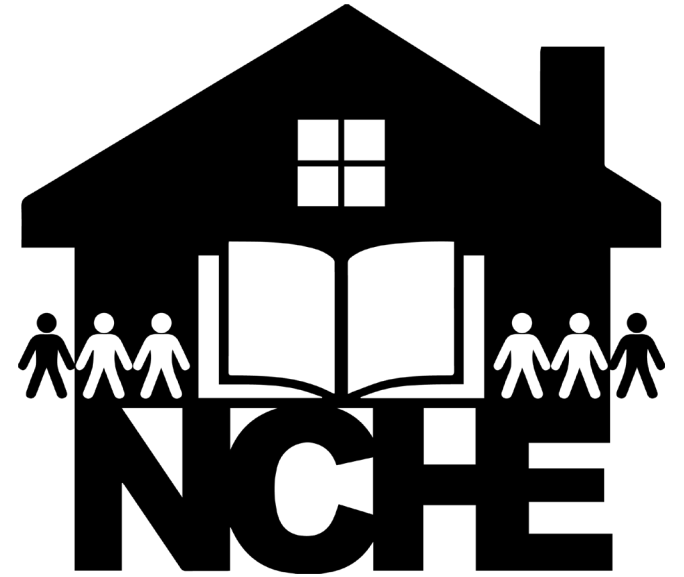


McKinney-Vento 101

What you need to know to implement the law

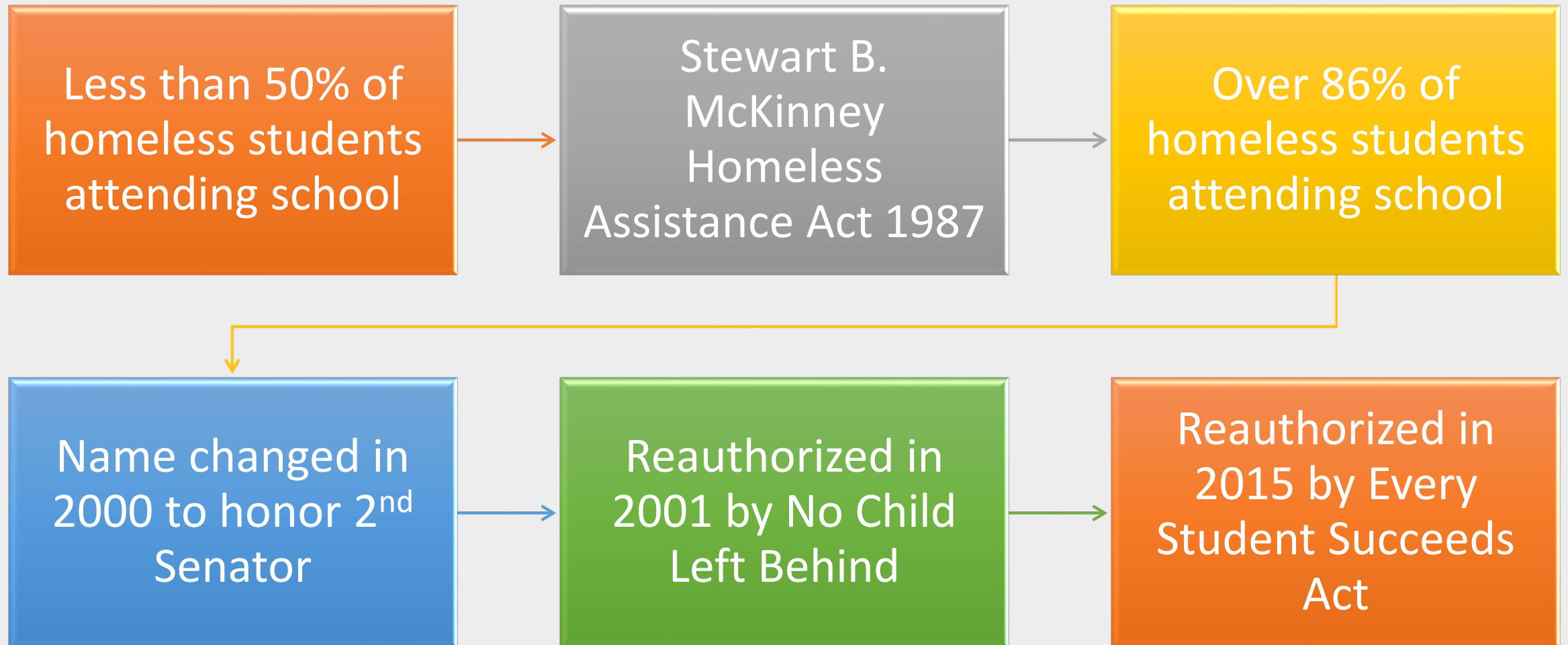


National Center for Homeless Education

Operates U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center

- Comprehensive website: nche.ed.gov
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- Listserv: Visit nche.ed.gov/listserv.php for subscription instructions
- Free resources: Visit nche.ed.gov/products.php

McKinney-Vento: A brief History





Major Themes

- Access, stability, & success
- Child centered, best interest decision-making
- Parent role in education
- Critical role of the liaison
- Collaboration with other people, programs & agencies





The Big picture

- 1,355,821 students identified as homeless children & youth (HCY) during School Year 2016-17
- 118,364 students identified as unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) during School Year 2016-17



Causes

Housing shortage

Job loss

Illness

Increasing cost of living & frozen wages

Natural disasters

Family discord

Impact on Students

- Higher than average rates of
 - Emotional, behavioral, & health issues
 - Developmental delays
 - Grade retention & lower rates of academic success
 - Hunger & food insecurity
 - Exposure to domestic violence
- Correlation between adverse childhood experiences & adult homelessness





Homelessness Defined

Those who lack fixed, regular, & adequate nighttime residence, including:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds
- Emergency & transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals



Homelessness defined

- Public or private places not designed for humans to live
- Cars, parks, bus or train stations,
- Abandoned buildings, substandard housing
- Migratory children living in the above situations
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above situations



Doubled-up considerations



- Why is the family living together? Crisis or mutual benefit?
- How permanent is the housing meant to be?
- Where would the student be if not doubled-up?
- Is the living arrangement fixed, regular, & adequate?
- Can the student come & go as needed?



Identification Tips & Tricks

- Housing questionnaires
- Keep a list of shelters & low cost hotels
- Host cooperative enrollment events
- Provide training on identifying HCY
- Assist with attendance reviews
- Review transportation logs
- Use the district website & social media



Local liaison duties

- Ensure HCY are identified in coordination with others
- Ensure immediate enrollment & access to services
- Provide information about rights & opportunities
 - Includes meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in their children's education
 - Includes transportation, school meals, & other programs
- Ensure disputes are mediated
- May affirm for HUD program that HCY meet MV eligibility criteria



Liaison duties

- Support UHY in school selection & dispute resolution
- Ensure UHY are provided verification of their status for FAFSA purposes
- Provide training & other support for school personnel
- Provide referrals to services in the community
- Collaborate & coordinate services
 - Includes collecting & reporting data



Enroll Now, Ask Later

- Means “attending classes & participating fully in school activities”
- Must be immediate
 - Even if students lack school, medical, or other records normally required
 - Even if enrollment or application deadlines were missed while homeless
 - Even if the student has history of absences or outstanding fines/fees





School of origin

- School attended when permanently housed OR
- School in which the student last attended
- Includes preschool & receiving schools

Local Attendance Area School

- School that nonhomeless students living in the area are eligible to attend

School Placement

School Placement

- Can remain in school of origin
 - For the duration of the homelessness
 - Until the end of the school year in which the student obtains housing
 - If student becomes homeless over the summer & is still homeless at start of school year
- Decisions are based on the individual student's best interest





Best Interest

- School of origin is presumed to be in student's best interest
 - Unless this is contrary to parent or UHY's wishes
- Consider student-centered factors
 - Impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, & safety
 - US ED encourages consideration of sibling school placement



Dispute resolution

- Disputes may be over: eligibility, school selection, or enrollment
- If enrollment is denied, a written statement must be given explaining the reason & appeal process
- The parent/student must be immediately referred to the liaison
- Students must be enrolled & receive services while a dispute is mediated





UHY

- Defined as youth not in the *physical* custody of a parent or guardian
- Liaisons must assist UHY with enrollment, school selection, & dispute resolution
- Have the same right to immediate enrollment & educational services as other students



There are no age limits in MV

Eligibility is based on the student's housing

In a report on youth living on the street:

- 38% of youth said they felt safer leaving home
- 13% of youth said they felt the same
- 40-60% of youth said left because of abuse
- 28% of youth said they were forced out



Need to have policies in place for

- UHY enrolling without a caregiver
- UHY who need to leave school for the day, come in late, etc.
- Medication administration for UHY
- What to do for permission slips, class schedules, other signatory items

Become familiar with state law

UHY must be assisted with verifications for FAFSA

UHY



Things to remember

- Schools are, first & foremost, educational entities
- Our primary duty is to enroll & educate
- Federal law always supersedes state & local law or policy
 - States & districts are obligated to review & revise policy to remove barriers to education for HCY
- We can educate without understanding or agreeing with aspects of a student's home life



Young homeless children

- Required to ensure access to Head Start, Early Head Start, early intervention programs
- Preschool is a part of the school of origin definition & therefore preschool students are eligible for transportation
- HCY are categorically eligible for Head Start, Title I
- Child Care & Development Block Grant requires tracking of data on HCY, a grace period for gathering documents & allows training/outreach related to homelessness



Transportation

- HCY are eligible for transportation
 - For the duration of the homelessness or
 - Until the end of the school year in which they obtain housing
 - This is a change; make sure your transportation directors are aware
- Can use *safe* options other than school buses
- Transportation should be comparable to what others receive
- Avoid stigma

Transportation

- Districts can split the cost & responsibility
 - Can use a common agreement
 - If can't come to agreement, then the split is 50-50
- Can use MV or Title I, Part A funds to cover *excess* cost
 - Some states limit the amount of the MV grant that can be used



IDEA

- Both MV & IDEA require identification of students
- Can expedite evaluations for HCY
- Timelines keep running when students change districts
 - Exception: if sufficient progress is being made & the parent agrees to the new timeline



IDEA

- Temporary surrogate parents
 - Must be assigned for UHY
 - May be someone involved in the care of the student
 - Shouldn't be assigned for more than 30 days
- Surrogate parents
 - May not be someone involved in the care of the student



IDEA

- The definition of parent includes:
 - An individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare

- Homeless students are categorically eligible for services under Title I, Part A
 - Eligibility standards normally required are waived for HCY
 - Eligible for Title IA services for duration of homelessness or until end of year in which the student obtains housing

Title IA & MV Basics



Title IA Set-Aside

- Every LEA must have a set-aside for HCY
 - Must be based on the total LEA Title IA allocation
 - Must be taken prior to any allowable LEA expenditure or transfer
- LEAs are encouraged to use a needs assessment to determine the amount for HCY
- Services must be comparable to what other students receive
- See Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question M-4 for list of possible expenses <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento/>



Title I Comparable Services

Equal



Comparable





School Meals

- HCY are categorically eligible for free meals
- USDA policy allows liaisons & shelter directors to qualify HCY
- Provide the school nutrition director a list with
 - The student's name
 - The effective date of eligibility
 - The liaison or shelter director's signature



Credit accrual

- Districts must have clear procedures in place to award full or partial credit for work completed in a previous district
- Examples:
 - Consult with the prior school to evaluate the work completed
 - Evaluate the student's mastery of courses & award credits accordingly
 - Offer credit recovery or mastery-based courses
 - Offer distance learning



Postsecondary education

- As noted earlier, UHY must be assisted with FAFSA verifications
 - Allowed to provide subsequent year verifications
- All HCY should receive information & individualized counseling regarding college readiness, college selection, applying for school, financial aid, & on-campus supports



Discipline

- HCY aren't automatically protected from discipline based on homeless status but homeless status should be considered
- Consider:
 - Could the behavior be a result of the student's homelessness?
 - Could the behavior be related to the student's special education need?
 - Is the school's reaction trauma informed?
 - Is the school's reaction appropriate, given that the student is homeless?



Contact NCHE

- NCHE Helpline
 - homeless@serve.org or 800-308-2145
- NCHE Staff Contact Information
 - <https://nche.ed.gov/contact.php#staff>