

Partnering with School Counselors to Support College Readiness to Students Experiencing Homelessness

Welcome!

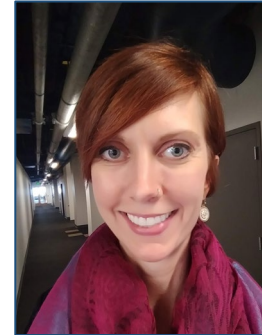
We'll begin at 2 PM ET.



Your Presenters



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About NCHE

NCHE is the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

- Website: <http://nche.ed.gov>
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- Products: <https://nche.ed.gov/resources/>
- Webinars: <https://nche.ed.gov/group-training/>
- Listserv: <https://nche.ed.gov/resources/> (click *Listserv* tab)
- Twitter: [@NCHEducation](https://twitter.com/NCHEducation) | Facebook: facebook.com/NCHEducation



Where We're Headed



- The importance of education
- The role of school counselors in supporting college readiness for students experiencing homelessness
- Leanne Eckenrode, Reading School District's work in support of students experiencing homelessness
- Resources and partnership strategies
- Q&A



The Importance of Education





“The Education Premium”

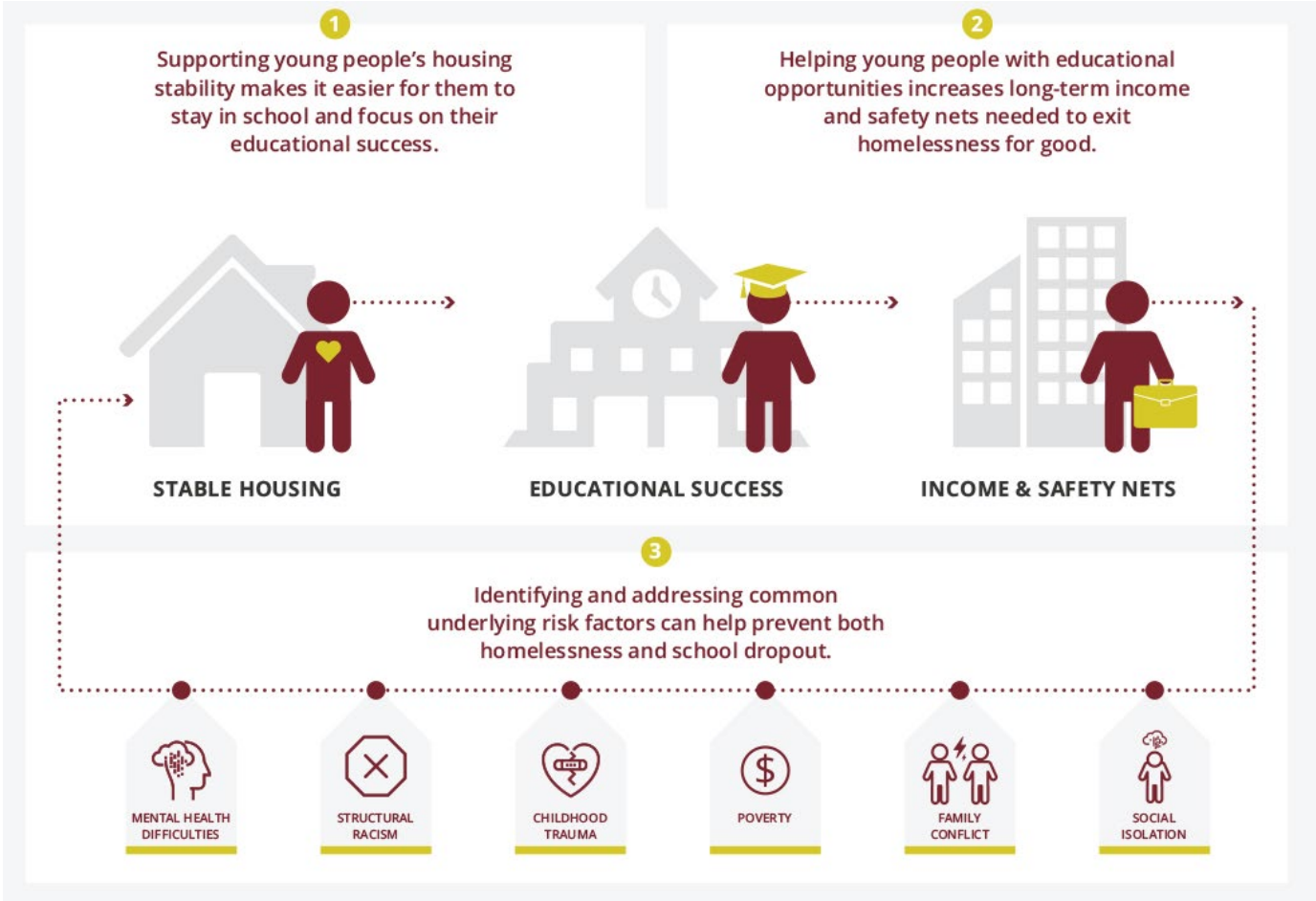
- People with higher levels of education
 - Have higher levels of income
 - Are more likely to have access to employer-provided benefits
 - Are more likely to move up the socioeconomic ladder
 - Are less likely to be unemployed
 - Are less likely to be receiving public benefits
- The education premium holds true across gender, race, and ethnicity, but inequities still exist

Sources included in slide notes

Homelessness and Education: A Bidirectional Relationship

Housing stability affects...

Educational success affects...



Source: Chapin Hall, *Missed Opportunities: Education Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America*

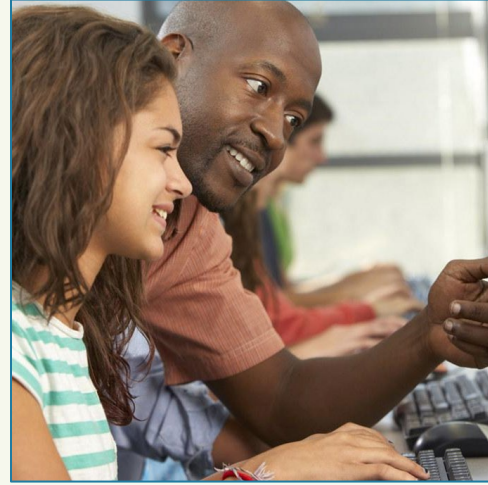


Educational Barriers

- While we know that education is important, we also know that students experiencing homelessness face many barriers applying to, paying for, and completing postsecondary education
- School counselors can support these students with college preparation and readiness to help address these barriers and pave the way to postsecondary education success

Under-represented students reported their school counselor as being the most influential intervention in their postsecondary planning.

Source: *Are School Counselors Impacting Underrepresented Students' Thinking about Postsecondary Education? A Nationally Representative Study*



The Role of School Counselors



School Counselors and Students Experiencing Homelessness

“[T]he local liaison, along with guidance counselors and other [local educational agency] staff tasked with college preparation, should ensure that all homeless high school students receive information and individualized counseling regarding college readiness, college selection, the application process, financial aid, and the availability of on-campus supports.”

U.S. Department of Education

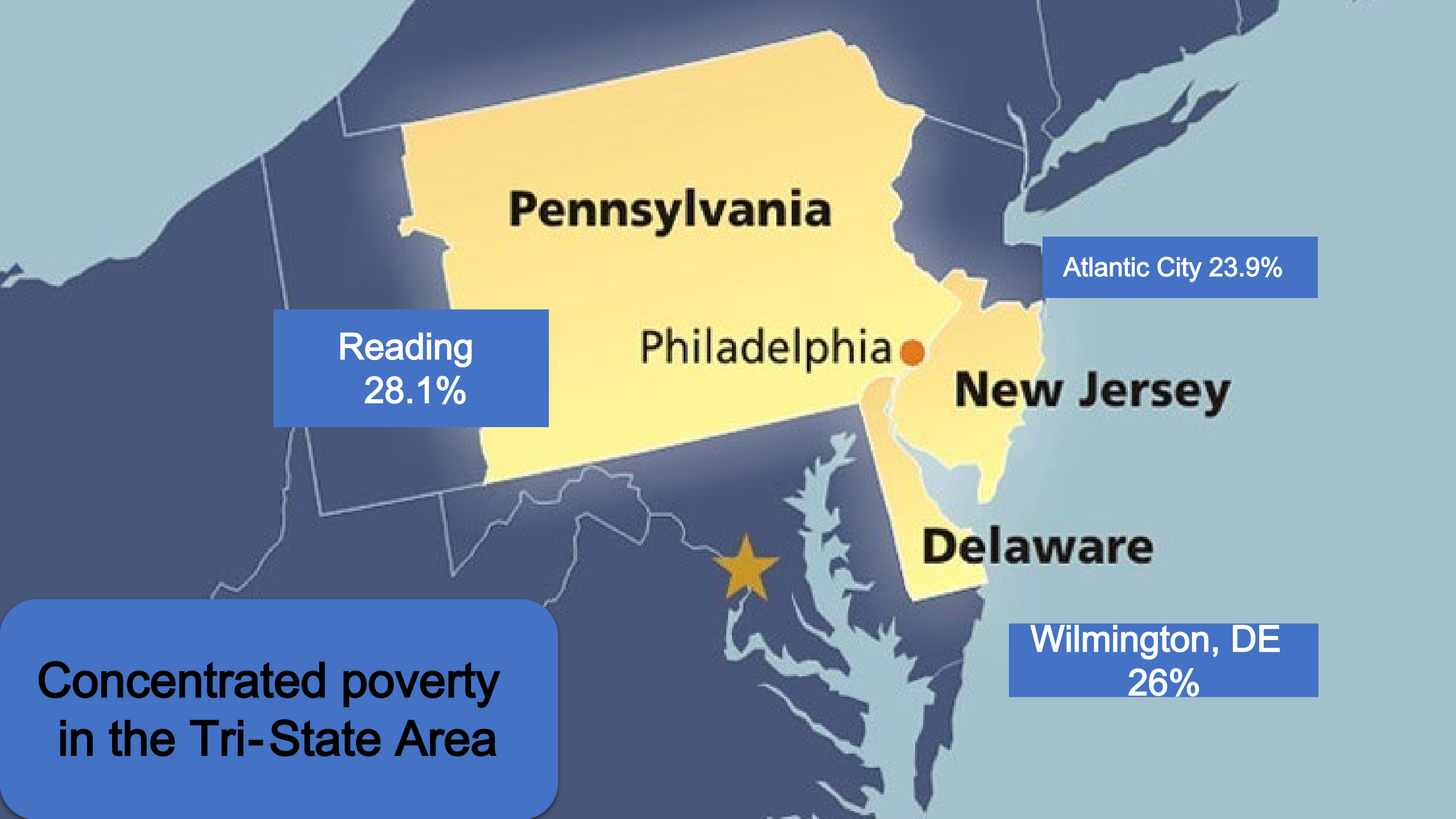
[Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#), p. 51





Reading School District
Leanne Eckenrode
Families in Transition Coordinator





Pennsylvania

Atlantic City 23.9%

Reading
28.1%

Philadelphia

New Jersey

Delaware

Wilmington, DE
26%

**Concentrated poverty
in the Tri-State Area**

Bridging the Gap

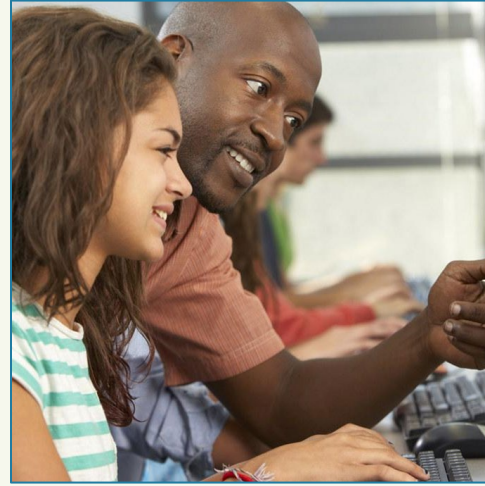
- Challenges: school counselors had high case loads
- Increased supports to school counselors by adding more social workers who can also address non-academic needs of students
- Increased capacity through vocalizing the need and using data
- Building capacity has led to the development of more supportive programs



High School

Community Forum
College Outreach
Coordinator
Scholarship
Partnerships
Dual Enrollment



College



Resources and Partnership Strategies



NCHE School Counselor Resources



MCINNEY-VENTO LAW INTO PRACTICE BRIEF SERIES
School Counselor Supports for College Preparation and Readiness for Students Experiencing Homelessness

This NCHE brief

- explores the role of school counselors in providing college preparation and readiness supports to students experiencing homelessness, and
- recommends school partnership strategies to ensure that homeless students receive the individualized supports needed to transition successfully to postsecondary education.

Context

A longstanding research base establishes what is often called the “education premium”. The education premium refers to consistent evidence that people with higher levels of education

- have higher levels of income (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021),
- are more likely to have access to employer-provided benefits (Ma et al., 2019),
- are more likely to move up the socioeconomic ladder (Ma et al., 2019, p. 5),
- are less likely to be unemployed (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021), and
- are less likely to be receiving public benefits (Ma et al., 2019, p. 5).


The education premium holds true for students experiencing homelessness, as well. Through its *Voices of Youth Counts* research initiative, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago found that youth without a high

McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless
42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)

The term “homeless children and youth”—

- means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and
- includes—
 - children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
 - children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...;
 - children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - unaccompanied children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

School Counselor Supports for College Preparation and Readiness for Students Experiencing Homelessness



College and Career Counseling for Students Experiencing Homelessness: Promising Practices for Secondary School Counselors

A National Center for Homeless Education Research Summary

December 2017

College and Career Counseling for Students Experiencing Homelessness: Promising Practices for Secondary School Counselors

School Counselor Supports

School counselors can support students experiencing homelessness by

- Collaborating with the local homeless education liaison
- Supporting students with credit recovery options
- Providing students with waivers for entrance exams and applications fees
- Exposing students to local postsecondary institutions
- Helping students select a postsecondary institution that is a good fit for each student's needs
- Providing information on sources of financial aid

Partnering in Support of Students



School counselors can partner with the local homeless liaison to help students access documentation that may be needed to apply for college, financial aid, and scholarships.



School counselors can partner with special education staff to ensure that homeless students with special education needs are supported in an intentional way.



School counselors can partner with parents/guardians/caregivers to help them know what to expect from the postsecondary environment and feel equipped to support the educational goals of their children.

Partnering in Support of Students



School counselors can partner with postsecondary institutions to provide a warm handoff to on-campus support services, including Single Points of Contact (SPOCs).



School counselors can partner with Federal GEAR UP and TRIO programs that provide supportive services as students move through the academic pipeline.



School counselors, local liaisons, and other education and community partners may wish to connect with and leverage national organizations to support college preparation and readiness.

Group Discussion Questions



1. What challenges or barriers have you faced when providing college readiness supports to students experiencing homelessness?
2. What partnerships have you developed to expand your capacity to provide college readiness to students experiencing homelessness?
3. What action steps are you taking with you today?

Questions?
Comments?