

McKinney-Vento

Education of Homeless Children and Youth


Information for All School Staff
Updated 6/2024





What is McKinney-Vento?

- Federal law* named for U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Stewart B. McKinney of Connecticut (1971-1987) and Bruce Vento of Minnesota (1977-2000)
- Law that authorizes the **E**ducation for **H**omeless **C**hildren and **Y**outh in all public schools (EHCY)
- Originally passed in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 by ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)



*This educational process is based on federal legislation, if a student experiences homelessness and is temporarily staying in Minnesota, the student can continue to be served by the Holmen School District

Definition of Homeless Under McKinney-Vento

The term “homeless” children and youth means: “children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...”



Definition

Regular:

Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis; consider the relative permanence

Fixed:

Stationary, permanent, not subject to change

Adequate

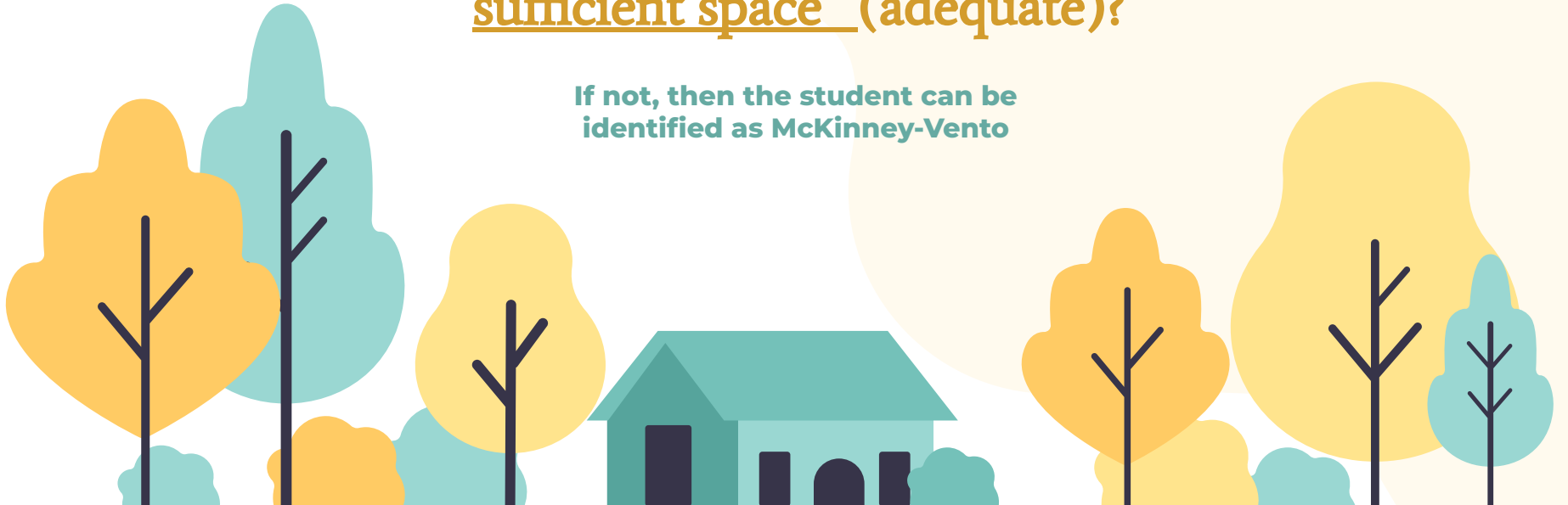
Lawfully and reasonably sufficient (sufficient for meeting physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment)



SO THAT MEANS....

Does the student go to the same place (fixed),
every night (regular) to sleep in a safe and
sufficient space (adequate)?

If not, then the student can be
identified as McKinney-Vento



ELIGIBILITY: All Students PreK-12th grade...



Sharing the housing of others due to economic hardship or similar reason (doubled up/couch surfing)



In a hotel, motel or campground due to economic hardship



Shelter (Salvation Army, New Horizons, etc)



Living in public or private place not meant for sleeping (park, vehicle, abandoned buildings)



Migratory children in any of these situations

McKINNEY-VENTO ELIGIBLE AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

Homeless: lacks fixed, adequate and stable housing

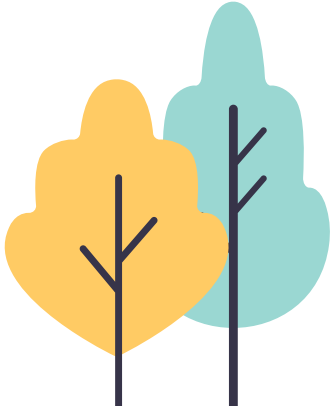
Unaccompanied youth: not with a parent/guardian/foster parent

A youth may experience:

- Homelessness WITH a parent/guardian
- Homelessness AND IS unaccompanied: in a homeless situation and not with a parent/guardian
- NOT homeless and IS unaccompanied: not with a parent/guardian, but in a fixed, stable and adequate living situation

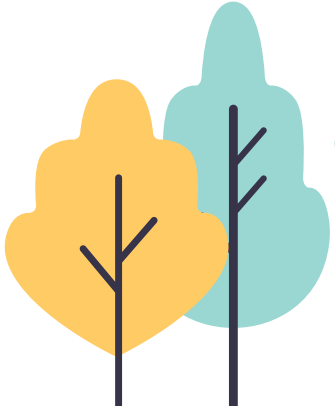
The Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness

- Receive a free and appropriate education
- Enroll in school immediately
- Enroll in local school (neighborhood school) or continue to attend school of origin, even if in another district
- Transportation (school of origin)
- Immediate start of special services, ie: IEP, EL, TAG
- Automatic free school meals (no forms needed)
- Field trip and other school costs covered
- School supplies provided
- Information and assistance with accessing local services
- Access to financial aid for post-secondary education



The Rights of McKinney-Vento Eligible Students Continued

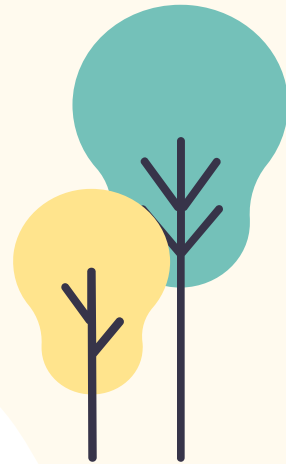
- Once a student is identified as experiencing homelessness, they maintain access to all services for the remainder of the school year, even if they are able to secure permanent housing during that school year. For instance, a student that is in a shelter in October will be identified as homeless. In January if that student's family secures housing, that student will continue to receive free breakfast/lunch, transportation, field trip and extra-curricular fees waived etc. through the remainder of that school year.
- If the housing is secured in another school attendance area, or in another district, the student has the right to remain at the school that they were in when they became homeless in October for the remainder of the school year.



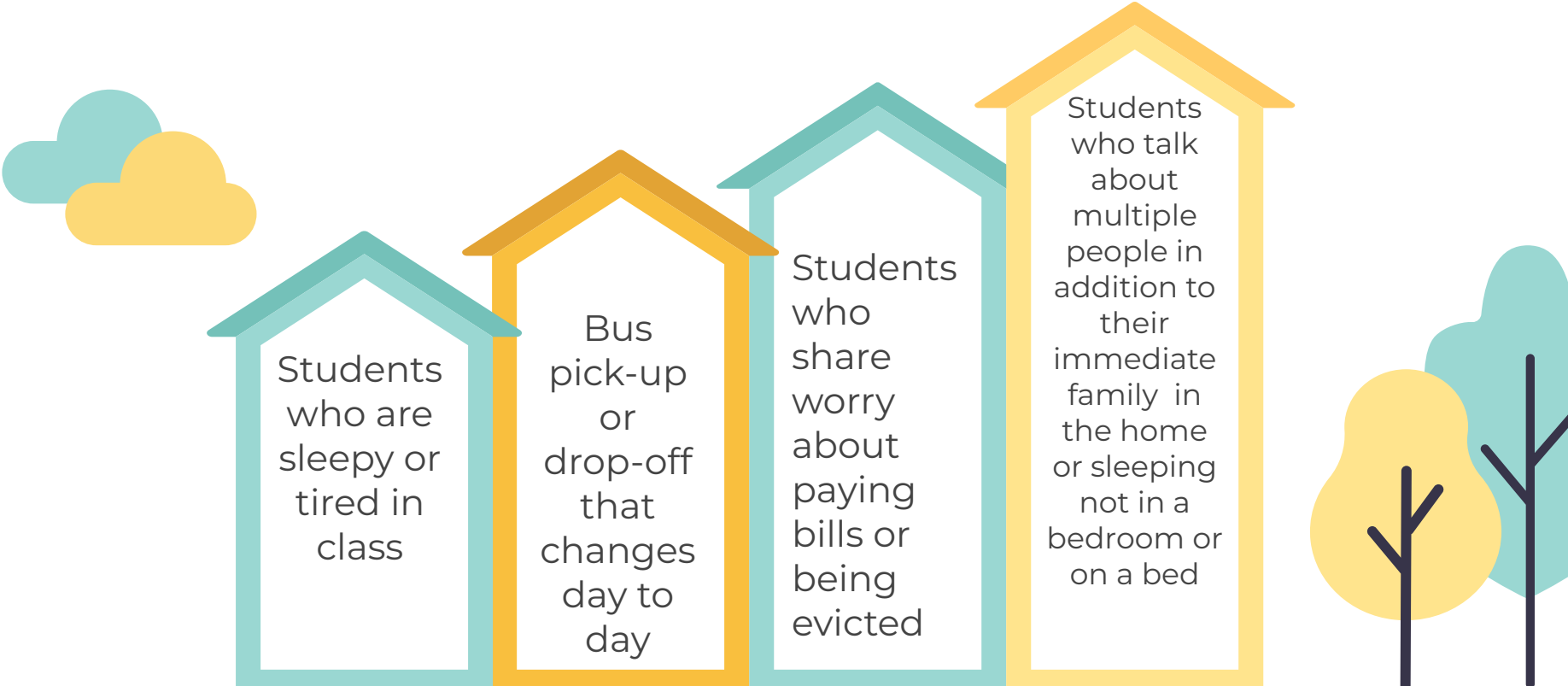
TRANSPORTATION

Students experiencing homelessness **MAY** be eligible for transportation. Students have the right to stay at their school of origin (their current school). If the school of origin is more than two miles from where they are currently living, the district will provide transportation. There are other situations that the district may also provide transportation for, considering the age and development of the student, busing already available in the neighborhood, etc. Students experiencing homelessness have the same transportation rights as their non-homeless peers who live in the same neighborhood.

The District may provide direct transportation, work with shared districts to coordinate transportation or provide reimbursement to families that transport their student(s). The McKinney-Vento Liaison helps this coordination with families and districts.



Identification



Students who are sleepy or tired in class

Bus pick-up or drop-off that changes day to day

Students who share worry about paying bills or being evicted

Students who talk about multiple people in addition to their immediate family in the home or sleeping not in a bedroom or on a bed



Why is it important we identify students experiencing homelessness?



Students lose up to six months of academic progress with each school change



A consistent school environment with staff and peer connections is critically valuable when other circumstances are unstable and out of the student's control



Housing instability impacts a student's ability to manage all aspects of their life. When students are identified, school staff can assist with providing support and resources to offset the negative impact



SERVICES AND RESOURCES

- Your school's homeless liaison is a path to many resources and referrals for McKinney-Vento eligible students/families.
- The school McKinney-Vento liaison works with the student(s) and family to identify barriers that may exist and then make a plan to address these challenges by connecting with community resources including navigating housing resources and supports for consistent school attendance.
- The liaison can make referrals to community agencies that can help with housing navigation, financial support, financial counseling, job readiness, healthcare, etc.
- The liaison assists with the student's basic needs, such as food, hygiene supplies, school supplies.

What is your role?

- Help identify students and families
- Share information with your McKinney-Vento liaison
- Provide students and families with information about McKinney-Vento rights & connect them with the school's McKinney-Vento liaison or Student Services staff



Department of Public Instruction

Please click to view this 5 minute video

[DPI Homeless Video](#)

Thank you so much for your time and attention

Questions?

Please contact your school's McKinney-Vento liaison or Student Services staff (District or Building)

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