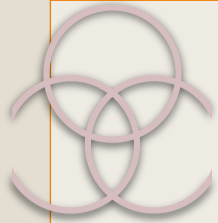




# Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility

WINDOW ROCK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.8  
DISTRICTWIDE ORIENTATION  
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2-25

# Session Outline



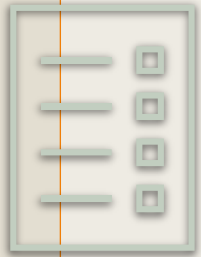
## Background

- The relationship between homelessness and education

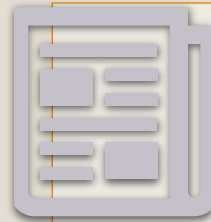


## Understanding homelessness

- The dynamics of family and youth homelessness
- The McKinney-Vento definition of homeless

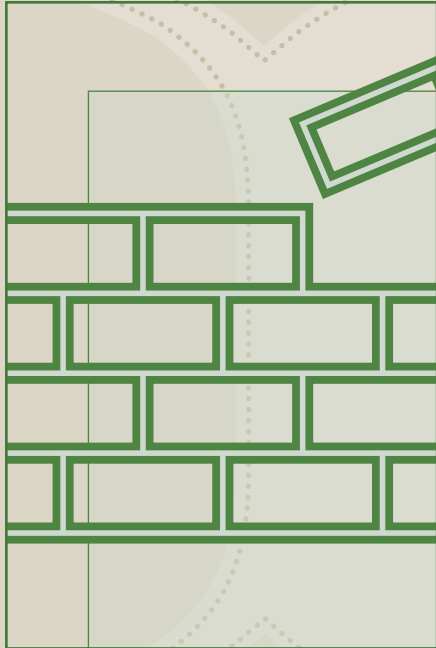


## District process and documents



## Test your knowledge

# Homelessness Creates Barriers

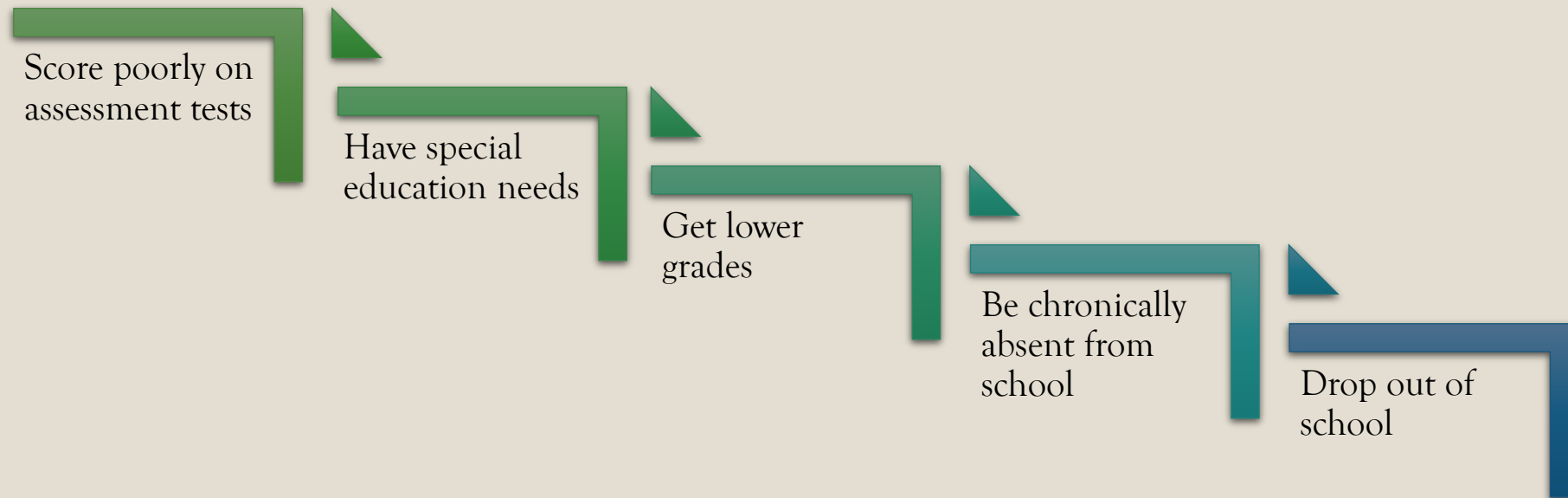


Students experiencing homelessness may

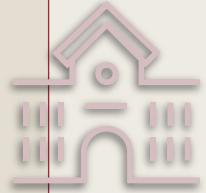
- Be unable to meet standard school enrollment requirements.
- Move around and change schools a lot.
- Be hungry, tired, and stressed.
- Not have school supplies or a quiet place to study.
- Not have access to reliable transportation.
- Not have a parent or guardian to help them (unaccompanied youth).

# Homelessness Affects Education

Students experiencing homelessness are more likely to...



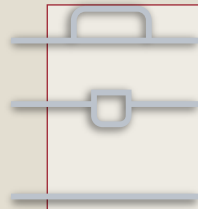
# The Preventative Value of Education



Children in quality preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school and own homes.



High school graduation is associated with an array of positive life outcomes (↓ unemployment, ↓ criminal justice involvement, ↑ income, ↑ health outcomes, ↑ life span).



95%+ of the jobs created since the Great Recession have gone to workers with at least some post-secondary education.

# The Preventative Value of Education

## Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



**346%**

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

**162%**

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

**83%**

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

**120%**

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

**33%**

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

**200%**

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk



Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | [voicesofyouthcount.org](https://voicesofyouthcount.org)



# National School Data, 2021 – 2022



U.S. public schools enrolled 1,205,292 homeless children and youth (including in public preschool) during the 2021-2022 school year, including:

- 110,664 unaccompanied youth (9.2%)
- 235,702 homeless students with limited English proficiency (19.6%)
- 235,915 homeless students with disabilities under IDEA (19.6%)

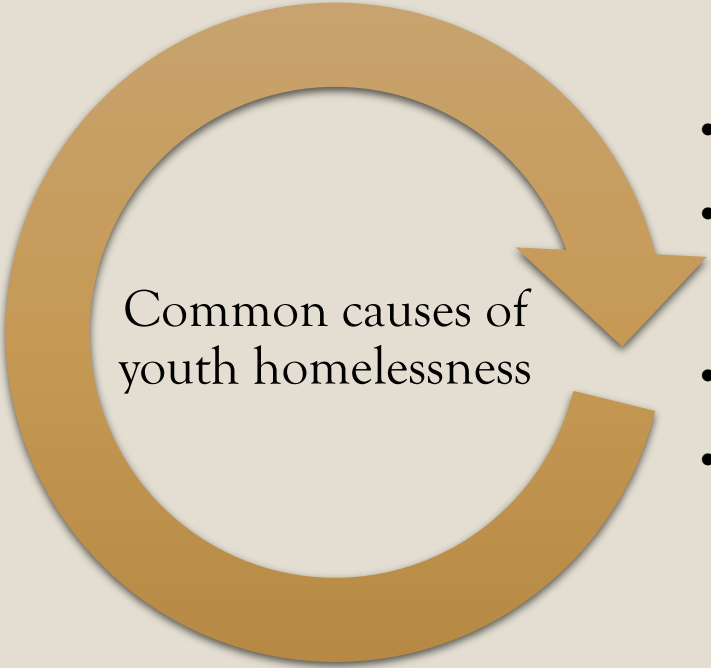
*Source: NCHE, Student Homeless in America: School Years 2019-20 to 2021-22*  
<https://nche.ed.gov/student-homelessness-in-america-school-years-2019-2020-to-2021-2022/>

# Understanding Family Homelessness



- Economic challenges (lack of affordable housing, poverty, unemployment/underemployment, single parenting/single income)
- Health challenges (disabilities, mental health issues, substance abuse)
- Domestic violence

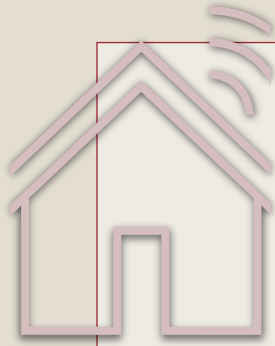
# Understanding Youth Homelessness



Common causes of  
youth homelessness

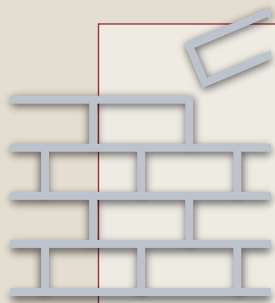
- Abuse or neglect
- Acute conflict (pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, blended family issues, substance abuse)
- Economic challenges (pressure for older children to be financially independent)
- Shelter policies (lack of space for whole family, adolescent boys sent to adult shelters)

# Understanding the Homeless Definition



## Shelters often are not an option

- Not all communities have shelters
- Shelter demand often exceeds supply (no space available)
- Families and youth may avoid entering shelter due to concerns regarding safety and the shelter environment
- Shelter policies (no adolescent boys, stay limits, curfews, etc.)



Shared housing arrangements often are unsustainable or are offered by unscrupulous hosts.

# McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

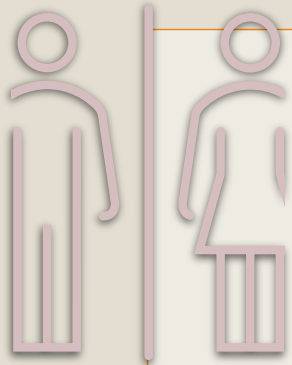
Children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances 42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)

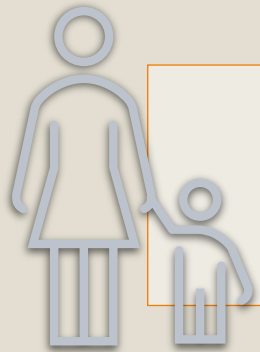


The term unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian 42 U.S.C. § 11434

# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



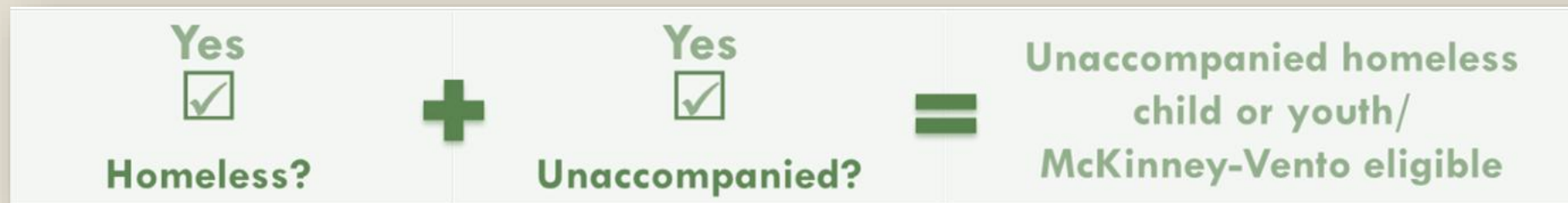
For any child or youth, including an unaccompanied child or youth, to be eligible for McKinney-Vento services, their living arrangement must meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless



A guardianship issue alone (without homelessness) does not convey McKinney-Vento eligibility

# Scenario 1 – M-V Eligible

1. The student meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless (the student is lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence).
2. The student meets the definition of unaccompanied (the student is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian).



The student is served under McKinney-Vento as an UHY.

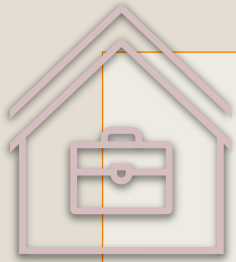
## Scenario 2 – Not M-V Eligible

1. The student does not meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless (the student is not lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence).
2. The student meets the definition of unaccompanied (the student is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian).

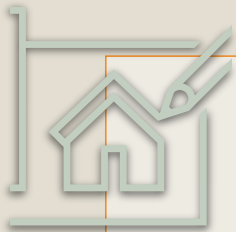


The student is not homeless so not McKinney-Vento eligible. The school district should work to enroll the student through other channels

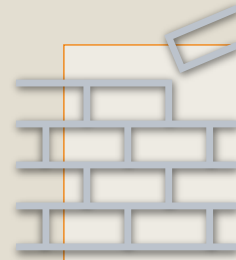
# Understanding Substandard Housing



Housing standards may vary by locality.



Each city, county, or state may have its own housing codes that further define what may be deemed substandard housing.



## Considerations:

- Does the housing lack one of the fundamental utilities such as water, electricity, or heat?
- Is the housing infested with vermin or mold?
- Does the housing lack a basic functional part such as a working kitchen or a working toilet?
- Does the housing present unreasonable dangers to adults, children, or persons with disabilities?

# McKinney-Vento Referrals

All WRUSD enrollment packets contain an Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire Form and a public notice of the Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth. Both documents are part of the process in identifying eligible school-age children who may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

All district staff and stakeholders may make referrals to any school's registrar or the district Homeless Education Liaison at 928-729-6822 or [tbenally@wrschool.net](mailto:tbenally@wrschool.net); if you know about any of our students living in any of the following situations:

- ♦ In a shelter In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation.
- ♦ In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- ♦ Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Eligible children have the right to:

- ♦ Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- ♦ Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- ♦ Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- ♦ Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.
  - *If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.*
- ♦ Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- ♦ Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.



Window Rock Unified School District No. 8  
Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire

SY 24-25

The information contained on this form is confidential and used to determine whether a child or youth meets the definition of homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program as authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.). Please note, false claims about living situations may affect enrollment.

**Section A**

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_

Your telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last school attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Current grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have additional children attending school in our district? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you have children of the preschool age? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide information about additional children attending school in our district or of preschool age.

Last Name	First Name	Grade	School	District

Address of where the student slept last night: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this address based on a temporary living arrangement due to the loss of housing? Yes ☐ No ☐  
(Examples: sharing the housing with others due to economic hardship or similar reason; hotel/motel; shelter; transitional housing; car; park; campsite; and inadequate housing, including no running water, electricity, or adequate space)

**NOTE: If you checked "No" to the temporary living arrangement, you may STOP here. If you checked "Yes", please continue to the next section.**

**Section B**

Name of the parent/guardian/adult caring for the student: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the student: \_\_\_\_\_

If the address you provided in section A is based on a temporary living arrangement, is it due to loss of housing or economic hardship? Yes ☐ No ☐

**Please place an "X" in each box that best describes where the student sleeps at night.**

☐ In a place that does not have windows, doors, running water, heat, electricity, or overcrowded

☐ Staying with a friend or relative because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason  
(Example: eviction, foreclosure, fire, flood, lost job, divorce, domestic violence, kicked out by parents, ran away from home)

What date did you begin staying here? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In a shelter/transitional housing program (name of agency): \_\_\_\_\_

What date did you begin staying here? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In an unsheltered location (e.g. tent, vehicle, abandoned building, streets, campground, park, bus/train station, or similar place)

Provide the main cross streets of this unsheltered location: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In a hotel/motel (name of hotel/motel & address) \_\_\_\_\_

What date did you begin staying here? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ With an adult that is not a parent or court appointed legal guardian

☐ Alone, not in the care of a parent or court appointed legal guardian

☐ None of the above (Please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

The following signature certifies that the information provided above is accurate. False claims about living situations may affect enrollment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Providing Information  
Parent/Legal guardian/Caregiver/Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**For School Use Only**

Please note, the student's cumulative file should not include a copy of this form. **Do not make copies of this form.** If Section B is filled out, please notify the LEA Homeless Education Liaison, and provide the original form to them.

Name of school site personnel who enrolled the student: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the housing types that apply:

Sheltered ☐ Doubled-up ☐ Unsheltered/FEMA/Substandard ☐ Hotel/Motel ☐

Unaccompanied youth: Yes ☐ No ☐ Transportation to school of origin needed: Yes ☐ No ☐

Date received  
by Homeless  
Liaison

\_\_\_\_\_

# Dispute Resolution

When a dispute arises between the school and the unaccompanied homeless youth over **eligibility, school selection, or enrollment**, the student must be

- Enrolled immediately in the requested school, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals
- Provided with a written explanation of any dispute-related decisions made by the school, the district, or the state educational agency involved, including the rights of the youth to appeal
- Referred to the local liaison, who will carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible, and ensure that the youth is enrolled immediately in the requested school pending the resolution of the dispute 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)
- Students must receive all services for which they are eligible until final resolution of all disputes and appeals. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)(i) and (iv); EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question K-7

# Determinations of Eligibility

The WRUSD District Homeless Liaison has the authority and responsibility to ensure that eligible students are identified; this a collaborative effort with school personnel, and through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(i)



Eligibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis, considering the circumstances of each student.

Test your knowledge, click button to take quiz.



Thank you for your participation and  
welcome back Scout Nation!

If you have any questions about the McKinney  
Vento Program, contact me at 928-729-6822  
or [tbenally@wrschool.net](mailto:tbenally@wrschool.net)  
I look forward to working with you.

"Alone we go fast, together we go far."