

Supporting Students in Temporary Housing:



McKinney-Vento Act: Meeting the Needs of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Presented By: NYS TEACHS
Thursday, December 7, 2023
9:30am-11:00am



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Webinar Format



- Today's session will be recorded.



- Your microphone will be automatically muted.



- Your camera will be automatically disabled.



- The in-webinar chat will allow you to communicate with the panelists and host only.



For questions, please email Rita Danis at RDanis@measinc.com. She will get back to you as soon as she is able.



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Housekeeping



- We will launch poll questions periodically throughout the session and ask you to put your answers in the chat.
- We won't be able to answer questions about specific situations in the chat, but we welcome you to call the Help Line to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Help Line is open 24 hours a day. Specialists are available from 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you leave a message, you will be called back by the next business day.
- Following today's webinar, today's recorded session, attachments, and Q&As will be posted/accessible on the NYS TEACHS website.



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Who Is In The Room?

Are you a...

- New McKinney-Vento Liaison (1st Year)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (2-4 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (5 – 9 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (10 + years)
- RHY Shelter Staff
- Other School/District Staff



Which region are you from?

- * Western
- * Finger Lakes
- * Central
- * Southern Tier
- * Mohawk Valley
- * Capital
- * Hudson Valley
- * New York City
- * Long Island
- * North Country



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Session Outcomes



By the end of today's webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act as it relates to the rights of unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Describe the educational barriers that impact academic growth and determine strategies to ensure success.
- Employ strategies to support the education and social-emotional success of students experiencing temporary housing.
- Use resources to meet the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth.

Today's Agenda

 Welcome! Who is in the Room?

 Who Are Our Homeless Youth?

 Risk Factors for Becoming an Unaccompanied Youth

 Determining Eligibility

 Strategies for Success

 Summary, Resources and Survey



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Who Are Unaccompanied Homeless Youths?



[The Homestretch 2014 Official Trailer.mp4 on Vimeo](#)

Let's Talk About It

What aspect of the video resonated with you most?



Please respond in the chat. 😊



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Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in America

1 in 10 young adults, ages 18-25, experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That's 3.5 million young adults.

1 in 30 youth, ages 13-17, experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

That's about 700,000 youth. About three-quarters of that youth explicitly reported homelessness including running away or being kicked out.

[Voices That Count https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/](https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/)



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Chapin Hall: Voices of Youth Count

The lack of a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is the number one risk factor for youth homelessness.

29% of homeless youth reported having substance use problems.

69% of homeless youth reported mental health problems.

33% of homeless youth had once been part of the foster care system.

50% of homeless youth have been in the juvenile justice system, in jail, or detention.

27% of LGBTQ homeless youth reported exchanging sex for basic needs compared to 9% of non-LGBTQ youth who reported having to exchange sex for basic needs.

62% of LGBTQ youth report being physically harmed while experiencing homelessness, while 47% of non-LGBTQ youth reported being physically harmed while homeless.



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Young People Most Likely to Become Homeless

Infographic from Chapin Hall, Voices of Youth Count, [Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America](#)

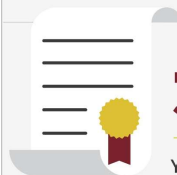


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Figure 5. Youth at Greater Risk of Experiencing Homelessness

Statistics describe the relative risk of certain groups of young adults, 18-25, having reported “explicit homelessness” in the last 12 months.



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED

had a 346% higher risk than their peers who completed high school.

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000

had a 162% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth

had a 33% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

120%

LGBT youth

had a 120% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

83%

Black or African American youth

had an 83% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

200%

Unmarried parenting youth

had a 200% higher risk of reporting homelessness.



Youth Homelessness in NYS

Data reported to the U.S. Department of Education by New York State public schools during the **2021-22 school year** shows that an estimated **133,599** public school students experienced homelessness over the course of the year. Of that total, **5,635** students were unsheltered, **34,248** were in shelters, **3,114** were in hotels/motels, and **90,602** were doubled up.

Total Number of Homeless Students	133,599
Nighttime Residence: Unsheltered	5,635
Nighttime Residence: Sheltered	34,248
Nighttime Residence: Hotels/motels	3,114
Nighttime Residence: Doubled up	90,602

<https://www.nysteachs.org/data-on-student-homelessness>

Youth Homelessness in NYC 2021

Citywide Youth Point-in-Time Count

Data based on the HOPE Count, NYC Youth Count and the census of all NYC shelters for youth ages 14 to 24

	Unsheltered	Sheltered		Total
		Emergency	Transitional	
Unaccompanied (single) Youth*	132	1,477	404	2,013
Parenting Youth	**	1,731	14	1,745
Children of Parenting Youth	**	1,959	17	1,976
Total	132	5,167	435	5,734

* Based on the HUD definition, unaccompanied youth are young people between the ages of 14 through 24. Totals for unaccompanied youth include results from HOPE Count and NYC Youth Count.

NYC Youth Count 2021

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2021New_York_City_Youth_Count_Results.pdf

Youth Homelessness in NYC in 2023

- Over the course of City Fiscal Year 2022, 102,656 different homeless adults and children slept in the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelter system. This includes **29,653 homeless children**.
- In September 2023, there were 87,907 homeless people, including **31,510 homeless children** sleeping each night in New York City's main municipal shelter system.
- In City Fiscal Year 2023, the **average length of stay** in the DHS system was **437 days for families with children**, well over a year in duration.

www.coalitionforthehomeless.org



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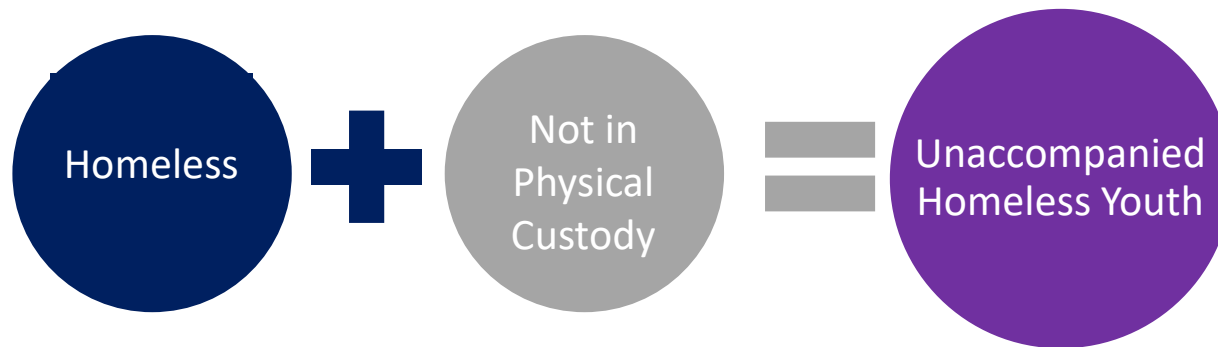


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Definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An unaccompanied youth is a child or youth that is not in the physical custody of/not living with a parent or guardian.

To be eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the youth must also meet the definition of homeless.



42 U.S.C. § 11434a[6]; Education Law § 3209[1][a][1][v]; and 8 NYCRR § 100.2[x][1][iii][6]

Risk Factors for Becoming an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Substance Abuse

Sexual Activity/Sexual Orientation

Parental Neglect/Abuse

Incarceration

Family Homelessness

Runaways



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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Act states that children and youth who lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate primary nighttime residence” will be considered homeless.



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Homelessness: Living Conditions

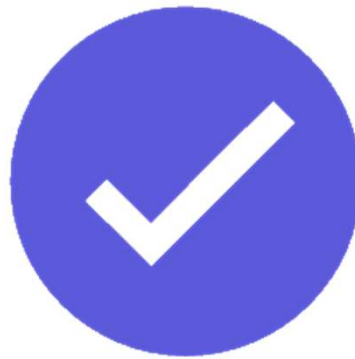
- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in circumstances described above
- Unaccompanied youth living in circumstances described above

Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i)

Eligible for McKinney-Vento Benefits



Homeless = lacking a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”.



If any one of these criteria is missing, the student is eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits.



A student may be considered homeless for an unspecified amount of time as long as housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate.



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Let's Meet Kimaya



Kimaya is a 10th grader, living with her parents in the Rochester School District. She leaves her parent's home to move in with her boyfriend in the Greece School District. She comes to the Registrar Office to enroll in school. They call the District Liaison to speak with Kimaya and assist in the enrollment process.

What information would you need to determine if Kimaya is an unaccompanied homeless youth?



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Quick Poll

1. Would Kimaya still be eligible for benefits if her parents say that she can return home?

A. Yes **B. No** **C. Not Sure**



2. Would Kimaya still be eligible for M-V benefits if her parents continue to provide her with financial support?

A. Yes **B. No** **C. Not Sure**

McKinney-Vento Students' Rights

- ✓ Free appropriate education
- ✓ Immediate enrollment
- ✓ Attend classes
- ✓ Receive transportation
- ✓ Receive educational services



Receive a **free, appropriate public education**



Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment, or having missed the application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness



Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents



Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested by the parent or guardian, or by the local liaison on behalf of an unaccompanied youth



Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's need



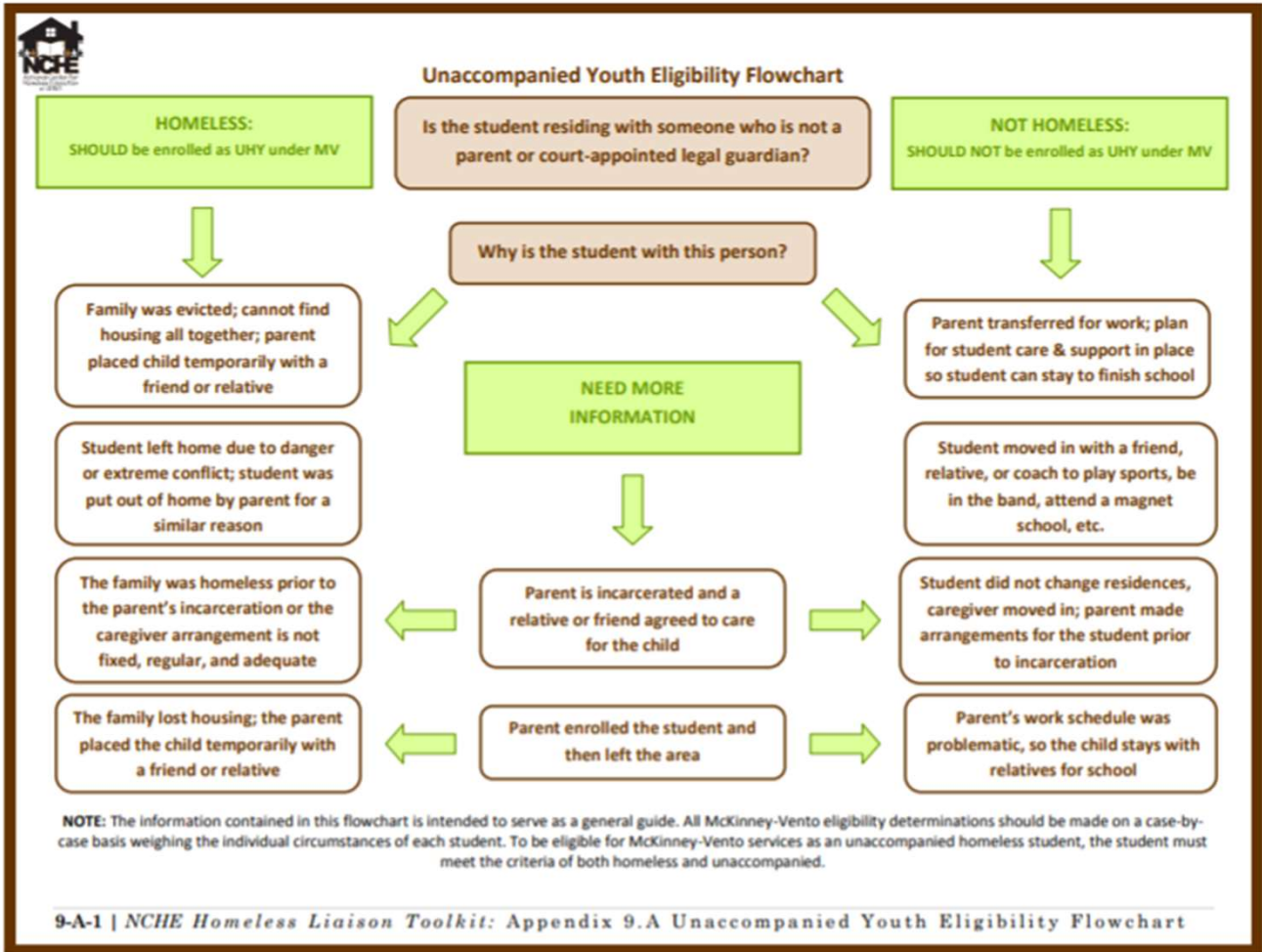
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Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart

A youth may be defined as an unaccompanied youth—but does this youth's situation meet the definition of homeless?



Determining Eligibility

- Is the student residing with someone who is not his/her parent, or a court appointed guardian?
 - If yes, continue to the next question. If no, the student may be homeless, but is not unaccompanied.
- Does the student meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento?
 - Homeless is defined as “lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit: Appendix 9A [Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Flowchart](#)



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Determining if a Student Meets the Definition of Homeless

- Why is the student living with someone who is not his/her parent/guardian?
- Is the student placed in this residence as a temporary plan for housing because the entire family became homeless?
- Did the student leave home because of severe family conflict?
- How long can the student continue living where he/she is?
- Does the student have his/her own space/bedroom in the residence?
- Can the student come and go as needed?
- Where would the student live if they are not able to live there?

NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit: Appendix 9A [Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Eligibility Flowchart](#)

Youth Scenarios



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Scenario #1



Due to conflict with his stepfather, David does not live with his parent or a legal guardian, and instead, lives with his grandfather. This has been the living arrangement for the past few months, but because the grandfather lives in a senior residence, he is not sure how much longer David can stay. David is...

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not sure



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Scenario #2



Olivia's parents died, and an aunt and uncle move into her house which is fixed, regular, and adequate. The aunt and uncle intend on remaining there until Olivia graduates. Which of the following best describes Olivia?

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not an unaccompanied youth
- D. Not sure



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Scenario #3



Serenity is in the third grade. Her mother was just arrested so she moves in with her aunt, who wants to prevent Serenity from going into foster care. Serenity is...

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not an unaccompanied youth
- D. Not sure



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Scenario #4



Jorge is 17 and has an his own apartment that is fixed, regular and adequate. He is able to pay rent and utilities. What is his status?

- A. An unaccompanied homeless youth
- B. An unaccompanied youth
- C. Not an unaccompanied youth
- D. Not Sure



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M-V Liaison's Role to Remove Barriers For...



Enrolling

Enroll in school immediately even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.



Attending

Continue attending the school of origin and receive transportation to and from school.



Succeeding

Equal access to the same free, appropriate public education and related services needed to meet State academic standards.



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Let's Talk About It

What are some educational barriers that unaccompanied homeless youth face when enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school?

Please
respond in
the chat.



Educational Barriers

Lack of safe and stable housing

Lack of support from a caring adult

Lack of school supplies and clothing

Difficulty accumulating credits due to school mobility

Lack of basic needs, including food and medical care

Lack of consistent access to bathing and laundry facilities

Irregular school attendance

Concerns about being reported to child welfare



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McKinney- Vento Act: School Selection

Like temporarily housed students, **unaccompanied youth** in temporary housing may have choices for school enrollment. They can choose:

They can choose:

- The school **attended or was entitled to attend** when circumstances arose which caused the child or youth to become homeless.
- The **school last enrolled**, even if the student was temporarily housed during that time, or
- The **local school** where the student is currently temporarily housed.

N.Y. Education Law § 3209(1)(c)



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Best Interest Determination

In determining what is in the best interest of the child or youth, the local educational agency (LEA) shall –

- Keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent/guardian or youth;
- Provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, to the homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian, if the local educational agency sends such child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent/guardian or youth;
- Ensure that the homeless liaison assists the unaccompanied homeless youth in placement or enrollment decisions and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)

Enrollment

The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)]

Unaccompanied homeless youth completes the [Housing Questionnaire](#).

3 Ways to Enroll:

- Unaccompanied homeless youth enrolls using self enrollment
- Adult caregiver enrolls using [caregiver authorization form](#).
- McKinney-Vento liaison enrolls the youth.



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Enrollment: School District Responsibilities

LEAs must review and revise laws, regulations, policies, and practices that may act as a barrier to the identification of, or the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of, children and youths experiencing homelessness. [42 U.S.C. § 11431 (2)]

Determine who can sign off on activities enabling the student to fully participate in school.

- ✓ Leaving school early for doctor's appointment
- ✓ School absences
- ✓ Permission slips for extra curricular activities and field trips



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Quick Poll #1

Do schools need to notify the parents or guardians of unaccompanied homeless youth during the registration process?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



* Rights to educational records transfer to youth at age 18, with some exceptions.

Quick Poll #2

Do schools need to notify the police when enrolling unaccompanied homeless youth?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



* If you suspect kidnapping, you can immediately see if student has been reported missing at www.missingkids.org or 1-800-THE-LOST



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Quick Poll #3

ENROLL



Can a school require that a caregiver obtain legal guardianship in order to enroll an unaccompanied homeless youth in school?

- A. Yes, in all instances
- B. Yes, if student is in elementary school.
- C. Yes, if enrolling in a new school district.
- D. No, the school district must enroll youth in school even if they do not have guardianship papers.



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Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- **Basic Center Program**- supporting emergency shelters for up to 15 days for unaccompanied youth under 18 years old.
- **Transitional Living Programs**- providing long-term housing for up to 18 months and life skills for young people 16-21 years old.
- **Street Outreach Program**- providing outreach and services to youth on the streets.
- The law funds the National Runaway Switchboard, trainings for youth workers, and other information and supports. More information about this program is available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb> and <http://www.1800runaway.org/>.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grants/new-york-rhy>

42 U.S.C. §§5701 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. §5712(b)(3); 45 C.F.R. §1351.18(e)



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Runaway and Homeless Youth: Transportation

- Transportation from Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Facilities is 100% reimbursable. [RHY Reimbursement Instructions](#)
- RHY facility or District may transport
- For students not staying at an accredited RHY facility are entitled to:
 - ✓ State aid for transportation
 - ✓ Title 1 Part A Set-Aside for excess costs



Transportation plays a major part in ensuring school stability!

On-Time Graduation from High School

Students experiencing homelessness - 70%
Low-income students - 82%
NY State Average - 88%

Students experiencing homelessness



Low-income students

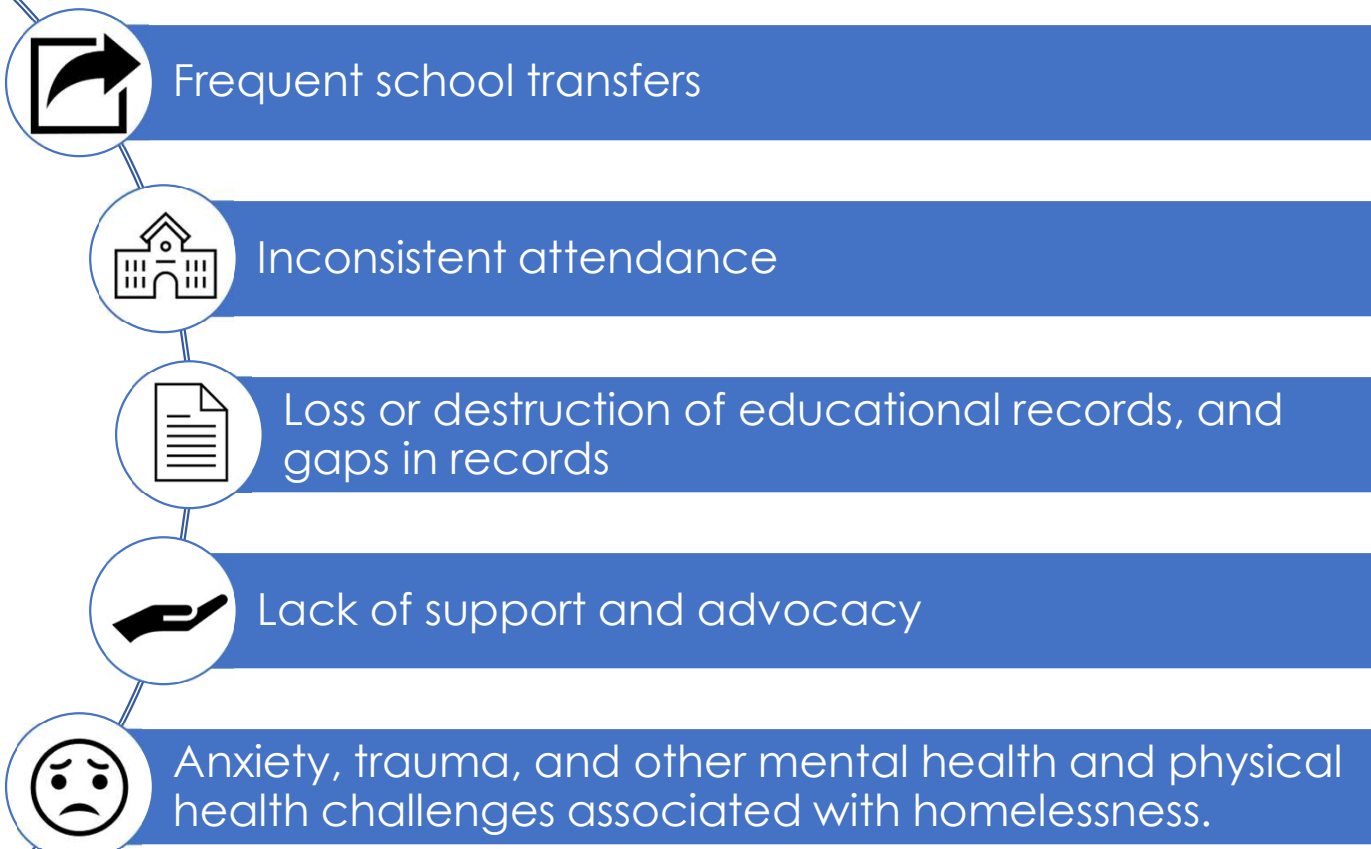


NY State Average



Source: New York State Report Card 2022

Challenges for Succeeding in School



Source: SchoolHouse Connection,

Let's Talk About It

What are some ways to better engage unaccompanied youth in their education?

Please respond in the chat.



FAFSA: Access to Higher Education

- Identify and remove barriers that prevent youth from receiving credit for full or partial coursework, satisfactorily completed at a prior school, in accordance with State, local, and school policies.
- Provide counselor assistance to advise youth and improve student readiness for college.
- Inform unaccompanied youth of their status as independent students when completing the [FAFSA](#) for college financial aid.
- More info on FAFSA and sample verification letters are available at: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/>

8 NYCRR § 100.2(x)(7)(iii)(a); see also 42 USC § 11432(g)(6)(A); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section F & Questions L- 3, Q-2

Outreach Strategies



Post outreach materials where youth gather.

I am your District Liaison; how can I help you?

Include contact information for the District Liaison.



Use social media platforms to communicate ways to support youth experiencing homelessness.

NCHE Brief: *Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Students Experiencing Homelessness*

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth with Special Needs

- Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) who are homeless have the same options as other students experiencing homelessness: the student can **stay in their school of origin or transfer to a local school** where the student is temporarily housed. 42 U.S.C. § 1414(d)(2)(c)(i)
- Students in temporary housing have the **same right to special education services** as permanently housed students in the school district. The McKinney-Vento Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) work together to ensure that students in temporary housing with disabilities have their needs met. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(5)(D); 20 U.S.C. § 1401(29)



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth with Special Needs

- IDEA's surrogate parent provisions for unaccompanied youth help protect students' rights and provide the school district with an appropriate adult with whom to communicate about evaluations and services.
- The school district must appoint a person to serve as a **“surrogate parent”** for students who do not have someone to **act as a parent on matters related to special education**. 20 U.S.C. § 1415(b)(2)(A)(ii)
- [NAEHCY's Surrogate Parents and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#), under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, helps school districts ensure that unaccompanied youth who are homeless and who have disabilities can access special education services.



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Check for Understanding



Check for Understanding #1

The McKinney-Vento Act does not include a specific age requirement to qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth. This may include children as young as five years old.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Not sure



Check for Understanding #2

15-year-old Alyssa has been having conflicts with her dad, so she has moved in temporarily with her 16-year-old boyfriend and his mom. The district liaison has been notified that Alyssa is no longer living at home. Which of these individuals can sign permission slips for field trips or for Alyssa to leave school early for a doctor's appointment?

- A. Alyssa's boyfriend
- B. Alyssa
- C. The McKinney-Vento liaison
- D. A caregiver who has completed the Caregiver Authorization Form



Check for Understanding #3

17-year-old Noah and his mom got into a fight over the way mom's new boyfriend is treating him. He moved out and has been staying with different friends for the past 6 months. He needs to go to the doctor and he is informed that his mom cancelled his health insurance. Can Noah still receive health care?



- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure

<https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/>

Check for Understanding #4

If there is no parent available to attend a CSE meeting to discuss the IEP of a 15-year-old Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in your district, can the district convene the meeting with no representative for the child present?

- A. Yes
- B. No, a parent must attend
- C. No, the district must appoint a surrogate parent
- D. Not Sure



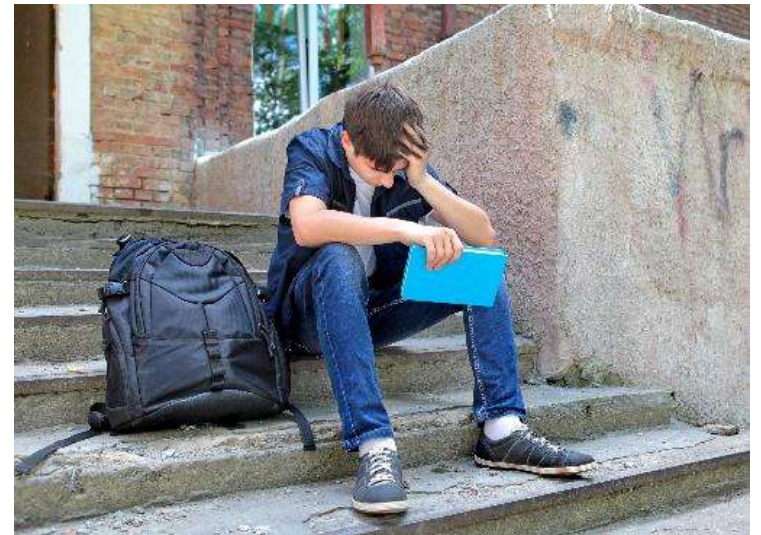
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Check for Understanding #5

An Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in your district is suspended. Do his parents need to be notified?

- A. Yes
- B. Yes, but only if he is under 18
- C. No
- D. Not Sure



Check for Understanding #6

Your district needs to convene a CSE meeting to discuss the IEP of a 16-year-old Unaccompanied Homeless Youth. Does the school district need to inform the parents of the meeting?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



Role of McKinney-Vento Liaisons

MEETING THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH BY:



- Removing all barriers pertaining to student enrollment and succeeding in school including school attendance policies, legal guardianship requirements, and transportation.
- Assisting with the immediate enrollment in school.
- Informing youths about their status as independent students for college financial aid and providing guidance/assistance in the process to receive financial aid.



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Key Points



What are some key points to remember to meet the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth?



Resources

More
Information



- [NCHE Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart](#)
- [NCHE Brief: Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Students Experiencing homelessness](#)
- [Surrogate Parents and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection: How to Answer FAFSA Questions About Homelessness](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection: Higher Education](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection: Tips for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College](#)
- [Financial Aid Toolkit for College](#)
- [Students Living with Caregivers: Tips for Local Liaisons and School Personnel \(ed.gov\)](#)



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Technical and Educational Assistance Center

Help Line (800-388-2014)

Website (<https://nysteachs.org>)

Web-Based Trainings

Understanding the STAC-202 Policy

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9:30am – 11:00am

Outreach Materials

<https://www.nysteachs.org/order-brochures/brochures-poster>

Tales from the Field <https://www.nysteachs.org/>



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