

# **McKinney-Vento**

## Education of Homeless Children and Youth

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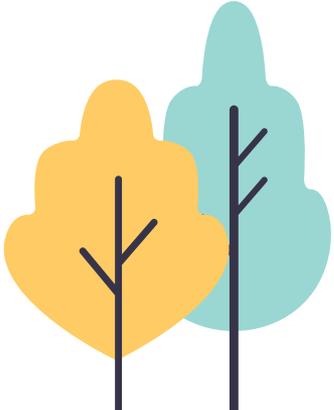
Information for All School Staff  
Updated 5/2021



## What is McKinney-Vento Homeless Legislation?

- Federal law\*
- Authorizes the Education for Homeless Youth and Children for all public schools (EHCY)
- Originally passed in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 by ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)

\*Unlike other educational processes, if a student is experiencing homelessness and is temporarily staying in Minnesota, we can continue to service them in La Crosse.



# 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....

Can 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 homeless



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



**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**

# HOMELESS AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

Homeless: lacks fixed, adequate and stable housing

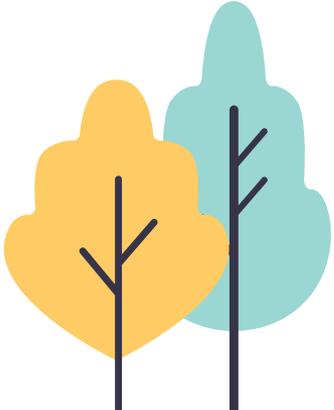
Unaccompanied: not with a parent/guardian

A youth may be experiencing:

- 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 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 services if an IEP exists
- Automatic free school breakfast and lunch (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 Students Experiencing Homelessness 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.



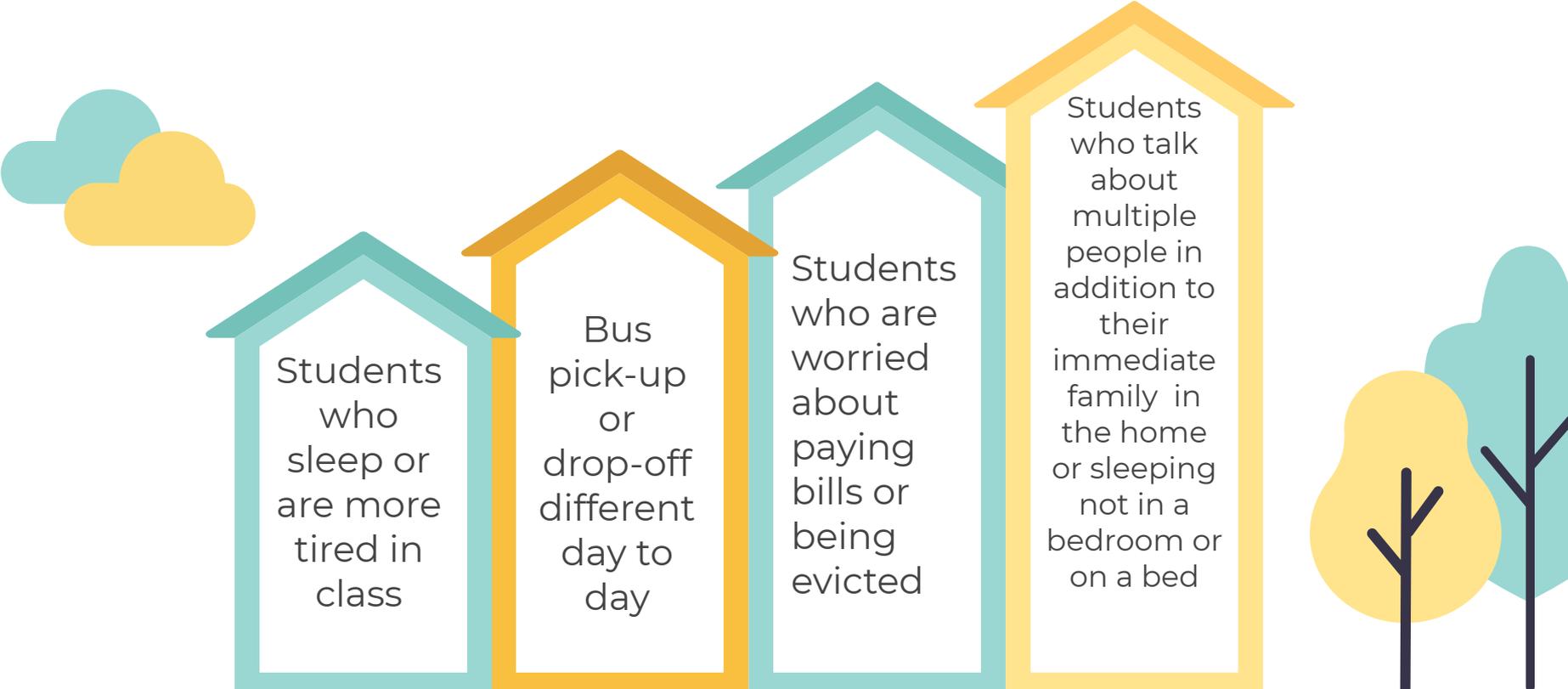
# TRANSPORTATION

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.

We explore parent contracts (reimburse families for transporting their student), Go Riteway busing, MTU or cabs. Your school liaison can work with the Community Services Department to arrange transportation.



## Identification



Students who sleep or are more tired in class

Bus pick-up or drop-off different day to day

Students who are worried 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

# Identification in a Virtual Setting



Frequent changes in background or location/connectivity issues because of the change of location.



## Why is it important we identify students experiencing homelessness?



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



**Consistency in environment, staff, connections with adults and peers: when a student's living situation is often changing and unstable, it is important to keep other parts of the student's life as consistent as possible**



**The stress of unstable housing can impact our students. When students are identified as experiencing homelessness, we can assist with providing support and resources**



## SERVICES AND RESOURCES

- Your school's homeless liaison is your school social worker or school counselor and they are a path to many resources and referrals.
- The district has a partnership with Great Rivers HUB and the YMCA to offer the services of a Community Health Worker (CHW). A CHW works with the school team, the student and family to identify barriers that may exist and then make a plan to remove those barriers. The CHW can also support students in attendance and academics.
- Your school social worker or school counselor can make referrals to community agencies that can help with housing navigation, financial support, financial counseling, job readiness etc.
- Student's basic needs (resources available for food, hygiene supplies, school supplies)

## What is your role?

- Help identify students and families
- Share information with your school's liaison
- Provide students and families with information about McKinney-Vento and their rights & connect them with the school's homeless liaison



**Department of Public Instruction**

## DPI Homeless Resources

(click on link and scroll to watch a 5 minute video)

<http://dpi.wi.gov/homeless>

# Questions?

Contact your school's homeless liaison (school social worker or counselor)

Contact the district's homeless liaison  
Alicia Place

[aplace@lacrossesd.org](mailto:aplace@lacrossesd.org)

789-7941

