

Children in Transition

SUPPORTING
CHILDREN AND
YOUTH
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS

“The average family making minimum wage spends 141% of their income struggling to meet basic needs.”

- Sherrod Brown



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Reminder: Students in foster care are not eligible for CIT

- Students in foster care are entitled to similar rights as students classified as CIT, but foster is not considered a homeless situation and students in foster care are not CIT eligible. Foster was removed from being classified as CIT in December 2017 per ESSA law.

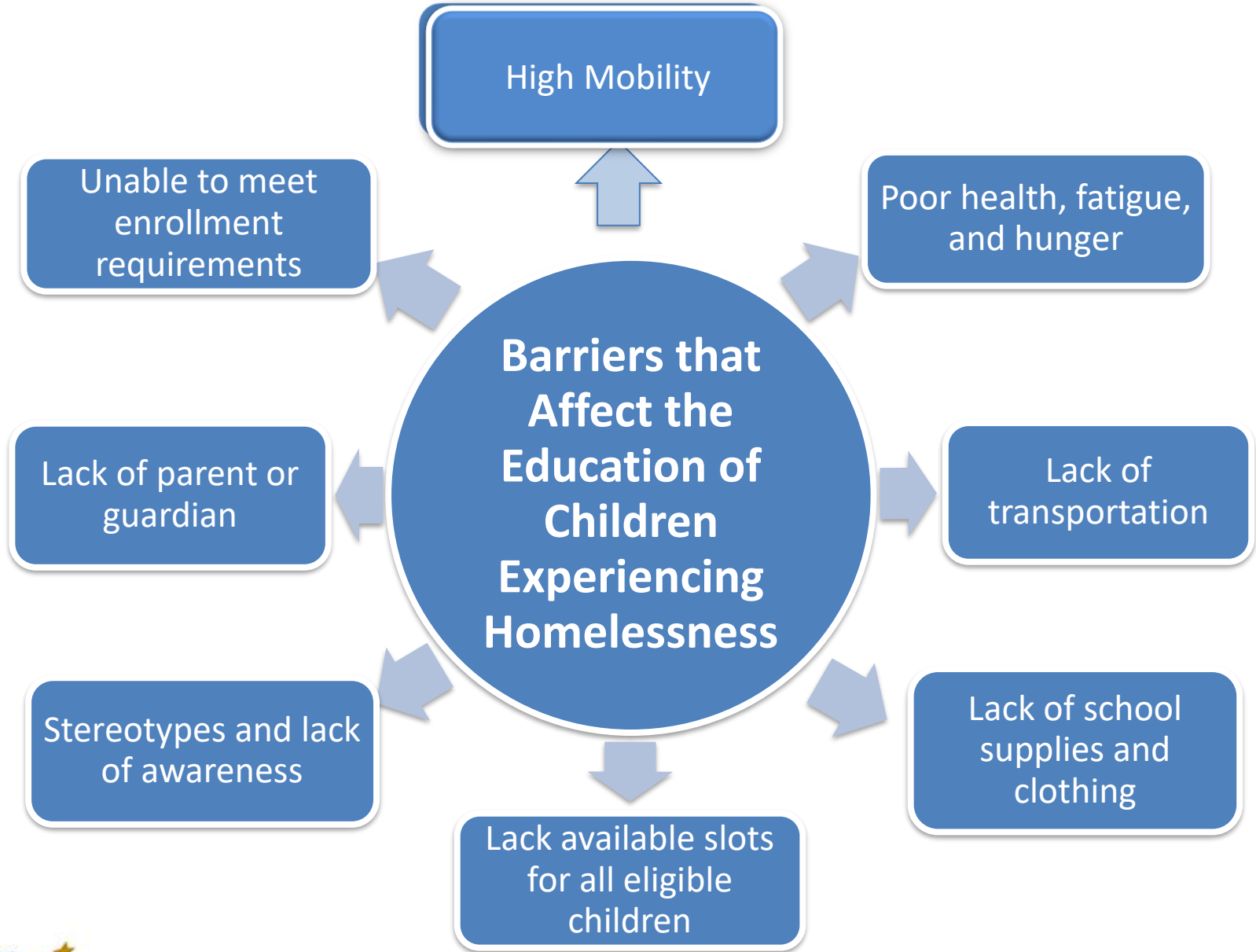
87% of homeless
children
worry



Children Experiencing Homelessness Face More Obstacles

Research has shown that homelessness puts children at increased risk of:

- health problems
- developmental delays
- academic underachievement
- mental health problems



Definition of Homelessness

Homelessness is defined through the
McKinney Vento Act as:

{ Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, or
adequate nighttime residence }



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MCKINNEY VENTO ACT



- Authorized in 1987
- Requires educational access, attendance, and success for children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Provides states with funding to support local grants and statewide initiatives

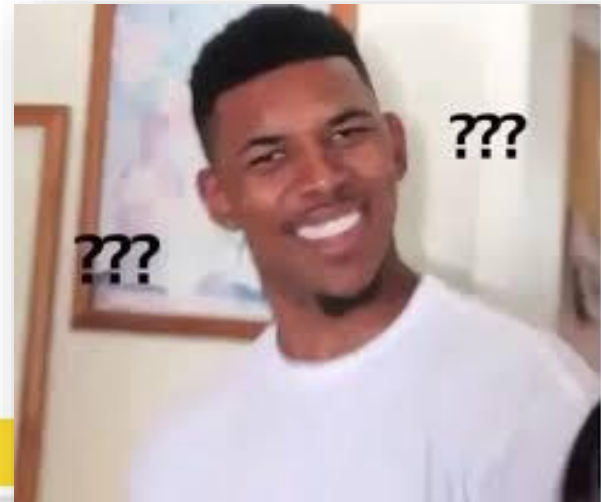


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MCKINNEY VENTO ACT

- Requires public schools to immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness even when lacking:
 - Proof of residency
 - Guardianship
 - Birth certificates, school records, or other documents
 - Medical records, including immunization records
 - Required dress code items, including uniforms



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MCKINNEY VENTO ACT

- Requires school placement in:
School of Origin
- Student has a right to stay in school last attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled

Why school of Origin?

- Students who switch schools frequently score lower on standardized tests
 - It takes youth 4-6 months to recover academically after changing schools
 - It provides them with one constant in a life of variables
- Requires school district will provide Transportation to School of Origin



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Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- ❖ Doubled-up: Sharing the housing OF others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (**not on the lease or mortgage – does not matter if paying rent or money to persons they are living with**)
- ❖ Living in motels, hotels, RV parks, or camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations (Siegel suites)
- ❖ Living in an emergency or transitional shelter
- ❖ Unsheltered: Living in a private or public place not designed for humans to live; ie, cars, parks, abandoned buildings
- ❖ Inadequate Living: Living in substandard housing that does not meet the physical and/or psychological needs of the student
- ❖ Unaccompanied youth: Youth who are not in the physical custody of his/her parent or legal guardian (temporary guardianship is legal guardianship)



Migratory students living in one of the housing situations above

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Nutrition Services

When CIT form is completed, the registrar, counselor, and/or CIT advocate must take a copy of form to kitchen manager at the school so the student can start receiving free breakfast and lunch that day

Please do this even if you are in a school with free breakfast/lunch regardless – that way if the student moves to another school that isn't, they are already in the system for free meals

CIT form

Importance of filling it
out with family, ensuring
all items are complete



Only sign if you have
verified the information
with the family/student

ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

Birth Certificates, Documentation, and
Immunizations, and School of Origin

Enrollment—Key Provisions

- ❖ McKinney-Vento students are entitled to immediate enrollment in any public school that peers living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend; even if:
 - Student does not have required enrollment documents.
 - Student has missed application or enrolment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- ❖ The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participation fully in school activities.
- ❖ SEAs and LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of children and youth in homeless situations, including barriers due to outstanding fees and fines, or absences.



Enrollment guidelines

Students Experiencing High Transiency

- Student's zoned school is based on the school that is in the zone for the place the student slept the previous evening
- Bus passes provided as means of transportation

Lack Proof of Residency

- Allow immediate enrollment
- Accept alternative documents from the family as long as it is not putting the family or the host family in a hardship by doing so
- Hotel receipt, residential affidavit
- If the family is unable to provide address due to confidentiality, safety, or other reason, allow the family to use the school address

Birth Certificates

- Allow immediate enrollment
- Attempt to access records from previous school attended when possible
- Accept alternative documents
- Passport, notice of birth, etc.
- Contact liaison immediately to assist accessing birth certificate

Enrollment guidelines

Immunizations

- Allow immediate enrollment
- Accept copies
- Contact designated Homeless Liaison immediately for assistance in obtaining records and/or immunizations.
- Refer to free immunization clinic
 - kids to senior corner (see Resource/Referral Page)

Parent or guardian ID

- Accept copies from previous school
- Contact WCHS if there is a concern for the safety of the student
- Refer parent to the nearest FRC (see Resource/Referral Page)

Unaccompanied Youth

- Allow immediate enrollment
- If enrolling with a temporary guardian, or adult assuming the role of the student's caregiver you may utilize the Caregiver Authorization form.
- Allow self-enrollment
- If enrolling on his/her own without an adult, you may contact your local liaison at the Children in Transition office

School of Origin



❖ Children experiencing homelessness have the right to attend

- **The school of origin**

The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed, or

The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled

Includes public preschools

Includes receiving schools

- **The local attendance area school**

Any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend



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Receiving / Feeder Schools

When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the term “school of origin” shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(I)(ii)



elementary
school



middle school



high school



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Duration of Rights

❖ Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to attend the school of origin for the duration of homelessness

- In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year
- For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II)



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ENHANCING THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Possible Signs of Homelessness



Characteristics that could be attributed to students experiencing homelessness:

- Attendance at several schools
- More than one family at the same address
- Attention-seeking behavior
- Hunger and hoarding of food
- Poor hygiene and grooming
- Sleeping in class
- Inappropriate dress for the weather
- Some common statements used by students experiencing homelessness include:
 - "We've moved a lot."
 - "We're staying with relatives/ friends while looking for a place."
 - "We're going through a bad time now."



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Identifying families experiencing homelessness

Why some families do not self-identify:

- Fear of child welfare involvement
- Stigma
- Embarrassment
- Not knowing M-Vento definition of homelessness and qualifications
- Barriers at buildings or schools such as postings regarding identification needed to enter school grounds

EVERYONE
IS
Welcome!



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Enhancing the identification process

- ❖ Substitute the word “homeless”
 - In transition
 - Displaced
- ❖ Get as much information as you can without being intimidating to the family and/or student.
 - Questionnaires with different living options to choose from, such as:
 - ☐ Hotel/Motel
 - ☐ Living with another family/friends/grandparents
 - ☐ Shelter
 - ☐ Car
 - ☐ Other _____



Strategies you can implement to determine if a child/family would qualify for CIT supports/ are experiencing homelessness

Questions to Ask:

Why are you staying at your current place?

- If answer is due to loss of income or financial hardship, and they are not on their own lease, are doubled up, or have been displaced, they are eligible

Are you on the lease?

- If answer is no - They are eligible

Are you sharing the home equally or are you guests?

- If guests, They are eligible

Could your friends/relatives ask you to leave if they wanted to?

- If Yes, they are eligible



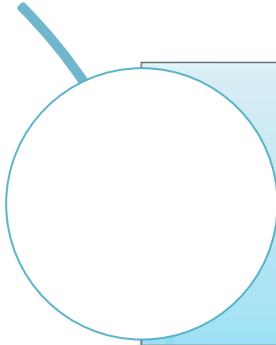
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TRANSPORTATION

Transportation



School district must provide a form of transportation to and from the school of origin, including until the end of the year when the student obtains permanent housing, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth).



If crossing district lines, both districts must determine how to divide the responsibility and share the cost, or they must share the cost equally





Children In Transition
Transportation Request 2018/2019

Date: _____ School Name: _____

1. Student Name _____ Student School ID Number: _____

Grade: _____ Bell start Time/Bell end Time: _____ / _____

2. Student Name _____ Student School ID Number: _____

Grade: _____ Bell start Time/Bell end Time: _____ / _____

School Advocate Name & Phone#: _____ / _____

Guardian(s) Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact & Phone# _____ / _____

Pickup Home Address: _____

Drop Off Home Address: _____

Before or After school Programs: _____

Student Medical Info/Behaviors we should know about: No

If yes, please explain: _____

This form *must* be emailed directly to **Rachel Espin** at Rachel.espin@washoeschools.net

Does this student require car seat? No: ☐ Yes: ☐

Does this student carries an IEP? No: ☐ Yes: ☐

CIT Program Internal use only

Infinite Campus	Van T
RTC Bus Passes: Yes No	
In-Lieu Of: Yes No	

All transportation requests need to be *e-mailed* to:

Rachel.
Espin@washoeschools.net

Transportation Options

CIT will always try for a school bus first, if no bus is available, RTC bus passes or In Lieu Of will be offered to family.

Even if a family receives bus passes or mileage, a transportation request is always required.

3-5 days after transportation request is submitted for a bus to be routed. Please let Rachel know if the student will need transportation in the meantime.

Additional paperwork will be needed if it is determined that the family will receive bus passes or In Lieu Of.



EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRESCHOOL



ESSA Amendments to The McKinney-Vento Act

- State plans must include procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs, administered by the SEA or LEA, as provided to other children.
- Liaisons must ensure homeless families and children can access early intervention services if eligible.
- The definition of school of origin now includes preschools.

Why identifying Early Childhood homelessness is so important

Early childhood homelessness creates distinct barriers to participating in early childhood care and PK education. Over 50% of children living in federally-funded homeless shelters are under the age of five.



The importance of early childhood education for homeless children is immense as it can play a significant role in a child's development and can potentially impact their success later on into their education.



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Make conscience effort to inquire if there are any siblings under the age of 5 in the home



If there are children under the age of 5 in the home, please fill out separate CIT form for those children (you can leave school and student ID blank). I can assist the family to enroll into a EHS/HDST or District PK program

When filling out CIT forms for students at your school...

Services the CIT office provides

Free breakfast
and lunch

Clothing and
hygiene
packets

Uniforms

Transportation
(best interest
of the child)

School/Sport
Fees

Birth
certificates

Shot records

School
supplies

Field trip cost
support

Tutors

Cap and
Gowns



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Refugees

- Refugee families coming into Reno are supported by **Northern Nevada International Center**, which supports families in obtaining housing, basic needs, jobs, and other items when being resettled in the area. Due to this, most refugee families do not qualify as CIT, because they have stable housing. They do, however, receive supports from our WCSD EL Department, with Holly Underwood (Family Liaison). She can be contacted at:

Holly Underwood

hunderwood@washoeschools.net

775-333-6090

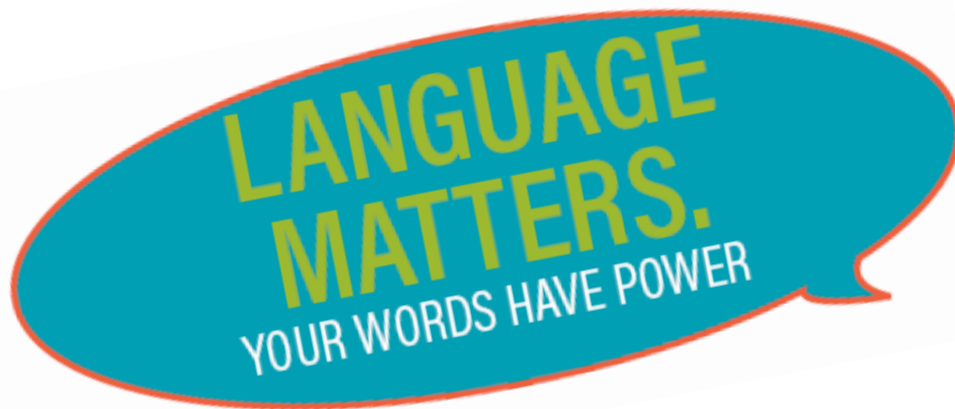
- Some refugees come into the area as unaccompanied youth (having come alone from their country or with family members who are not legal parents/guardians.)
- These students do qualify as CIT and need to be identified.**
- CIT can also connect these students with Holly for refugee supports.



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SENSITIVITY AWARENESS



Would you ever
describe a child who
has cancer as a
“cancerous child”?
Of course not.

Do not use language that describes someone’s circumstances as their identity.

In the above example, you would say the child has cancer.

He/she is not an autistic child- he/she is a child with autism.

Not a homeless child/family – they are experiencing homelessness,
displacement, or transition.

Not a foster kid – a child in the foster care system.

This is not their identity, it is something they are going through.

It is a part of their life, but it is not who they are.



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The Importance of Confidentiality

If a student or family has opened up to you to report their situation and ask for help, they have trusted you with their most personal information.

Please respect the student, the family, and the situation and let the CIT Program support as much as possible.

Website:

- Forms and information are on school district website under CIT



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Questions

- If you have any questions at all, please reach out to CIT staff for clarification before turning a family away or making a decision.



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