



ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LEAD. CARE. INSPIRE.

Supporting our Students: McKinney-Vento & Foster Care

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Ann Arbor Public Schools
Board of Education
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McKinney-Vento (MV) Program Overview

The *McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act* is federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless youth. Students have legal protections that guarantee comparable access to FAPE as housed peers. Youth in foster care have similar core protections for school stability and access through the *Every Student Achieves Act*.

Students have the right to continue attending their school of origin without disruption

20% of MV students in MI transfer schools mid year (3x the state average 7%)

The law also requires immediate school enrollment, when a transfer is necessary

50% of MV students in MI are chronically absent (2.5x the state average 20%)

Our imperative is to stabilize a student's education - this is achieved through continued enrollment whenever possible, or by ensuring immediate enrollment.

The Painful Truth about Youth Homelessness

With each school transition, a student's learning is set back an average of 4-6 months.

Compared to housed peers, transient youth:

- produce poor test scores 2x as often
- are 3x more likely to qualify for special education
- **are 4x more likely to drop out of school**
- **are 4x more likely to be suspended or expelled**
- **are 9x more likely to repeat a grade**
- are 14x more likely to enter foster care in the following year

What do the numbers indicate for districts?

A student is eligible for McKinney-Vento services if their primary nighttime residence falls into these categories: temporarily **doubled-up, hotel/motel, transitional housing program, shelter, or unsheltered.**

Youth in foster care placements have similar but separate educational rights and services.

School districts should anticipate the expected number of homeless students in a given school year to be a minimum of **10%*** of its total Free & Reduced Lunch count (FRL) or **20%** of FRL in high-poverty districts. **This target is based on statewide homeless data and monitored by the Michigan Department of Education to ensure each district is doing its part to identify and support students who may be homeless.*

A higher percentage of students is generally considered an indicator of **increased identification**, not necessarily an increase in student homelessness.

AAPS McKinney-Vento Identification Rates Over Time

School Year	MV Students Supported by AAPS	Percent of F/R Population
2013-14	260	7%
2014-15	307	8%
2015-16	326	9%
2016-17	345	9%
2017-18	360	8%
2018-19	367	8%
2019-20	316	7%
2020-21	262	7%

foster care: ~35-45 students/year no longer reported under MV (as of 12/2016); included for comparison

A snapshot of AAPS students in transition

326

average # of students eligible under McKinney-Vento and Foster Care each year

54

of students also eligible as unaccompanied homeless youth- UHY

75

who have stayed in a youth or family shelter

25

who have been unsheltered for at least one night

90

of students also receiving special education services

What do McKinney-Vento & Foster Care supports look like for our families?

A district's Liaison ensures students are identified and provided necessary educational and community services that promote learning and wellbeing.

- Enrollment support
- Educational planning and advocacy
- Transportation services
- Academic interventions and school resources
- Basic needs resources
- Assistance with school fees
- District McKinney-Vento scholarships
- Health resources
- Community referrals and collaboration
- Connections, care, and coordination

Additional Outreach and Support in our Community

Students and families enduring the impacts of homelessness are often in need of external services beyond the educational domain.

The liaison, in tandem w/school teams, supports families to access many community partners in the areas of:

- **Housing**
- **Mental health services**
- **Legal services**
- **Juvenile services**
- **Educational services**
- **Extracurricular services**
- **Special needs resources**
- **Basic needs referrals for food, furniture, transportation, and clothing**

We work hard to be strong advocates within the village!

Valued Ann Arbor Area McKinney-Vento Community Partners

A2 Thrift / A2PTO Thrift / Ypsi Thrift
Ann Arbor Community Center
Avalon Housing
Barrier Busters
Birthday Smiles
Child Care Network
Community Action Network
Community Daycare
Community Mental Health
Fostering Futures Our House
HouseN2Home
Housing Access for Washtenaw County (HAWC)
IHN Alpha House
Jewish Family Services
King Care

MDHHS
MISSION
Ozone House
Peace Neighborhood Center
Rec & Ed
Safe House
Salvation Army
SOS
Student Advocacy Center
University of Michigan
WACY
Washtenaw County OCED
Washtenaw Health Plan
WISD Education Project (EPHY)
...and many more!

How has the pandemic impacted the need for McKinney-Vento support?

WDET 101.9 fm Detroit's NPR Station

All Things Considered 4:00 PM-6:00 PM
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by Sascha Raijn | Sept. 23, 2021

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DETROIT

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Lily Altavena Detroit Free Press
Published 7:00 a.m. ET Aug. 24, 2021 | Updated 4:44 p.m. ET Aug. 24, 2021

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August 23, 2021

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How do school teams identify a student for McKinney-Vento support?

Our expectation is clear: **Any sign of potential student homelessness is addressed quickly and fully supported.**

- Staff are to follow the identification, enrollment, and referral steps clearly outlined in our McKinney-Vento district protocol document.
- The liaison provides ongoing inter-departmental training.
- Collaboration between school teams and the liaison is a must.
- The liaison also engages regularly with community providers towards identifying and supporting families.

How do families connect with McKinney-Vento support?

- To reach as many families as possible, information about McKinney-Vento rights and services are available in multiple locations including the AAPS website, posters in each school, and in brochures and posters at community locations including motels, shelters, and agencies.
- Families are strongly encouraged to contact their school's **McKinney-Vento ally**, the district liaison, or any trusted member of their school team to access support. We are all here to help!
- Residency questionnaires are provided to every family in the district during annual registration and the liaison engages in outreach to all families with positive responses.
- Families should feel SAFE and be reassured that needs will be responded to quickly and confidentially, without judgement.

Ongoing Challenges and Next Steps

Challenges:

- Capacity of school teams to support outreach, identification, and monitoring within the current context
- Mindset that a child's circumstances may require differentiation
- Difficulties with attendance and engagement
- Family social emotional needs stemming from adverse experiences
- Barriers affecting families- financial, transportation, housing, access to care

Next Steps:

- Renew our commitment to identifying MV students
- Focused interventions for students and families with greatest needs
- Enhance relationships with partners to meet increased family needs
- Continue to collaborate with local and state contacts to address structural issues in service and resource delivery



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