

SEAT

15

McKinney-Vento Liaisons • Pre-K to 12

McKinney-Vento Basics

*Which rights keep a student experiencing homelessness in school,
and how do they connect to attendance?*

10 slides • 2 handouts • evidence from Schools Spared, Children Punished and the Attendance Science™
research base



The withdrawal that housing explains

“

Withdrawal is family-centered absence rooted in logistics, caregiving, housing instability or economic survival. When housing is the root, the McKinney-Vento Act already gives schools the tools: immediate enrollment, school stability and transportation. Attendance improves when the liaison is in the room from the first conversation.

Source: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 1 (Maria, composite case); McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.); National Center for Homeless Education



Every story in this series is a composite or a published case. Names are invented.



What liaisons are asking

Which rights keep a student experiencing homelessness in school, and how do they connect to attendance?

1

Doubled-up families rarely self-identify.

2

Missing records delay enrollment and add absences.

3

Attendance letters go to families who just lost housing.



Shared words before shared work



Homeless (McKinney-Vento)

Lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including sharing housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship.



Local liaison

The staff member every school district must designate to identify and support these students.



School of origin

The school attended when permanently housed, or last enrolled.



The numbers behind the moment

Day 1

immediate enrollment, even without records normally required

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.); National Center for Homeless Education

Every LEA

must designate a homeless education liaison

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.); National Center for Homeless Education

Fees, fines, absences

states must address these as barriers for homeless students under ESSA amendments

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.); National Center for Homeless Education



Classify before you consequence

Withdrawal

Most housing-related absence. Liaison first, never a truancy letter.

Avoidance

Stigma at a new school. Assign a welcoming adult.

Refusal

Trauma and stress. Connect to counseling.

Truancy

Rarely the right label for a student without stable housing.



Three moves you can make this week

01

Cost: \$0

Screen every enrollment

Use a housing questionnaire at enrollment and re-enrollment.

02

Cost: \$0

Flag before the letter

Route any student with housing flags to the liaison before attendance notices.

03

Cost: \$0

Train front office staff

Front desk and attendance clerks learn the signs and the referral path.



A PRESENCE™ prompt for your building



Problem definition



Research evidence



Environmental context



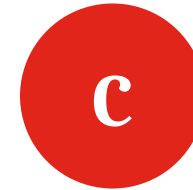
Statistical analysis



Equity assessment



Network and partnership



Compliance and legal



Evidence-based recommendations

YOUR PROMPT

Compare your identified homeless count with free-meal and mobility data. A low identification rate signals students the system is missing.



Common missteps, and how you will know it works



Requiring records before enrolling a student



Sending standard truancy notices to identified families



Assuming families will self-identify

LEADING INDICATOR • Moves first

Students identified and connected within 5 days

LAGGING INDICATOR • Confirms it worked

Chronic absence for identified students



Join 1,000 Seats at the national table

Scan to take your seat: free membership in Attendance USA and the weekly Attendance Intelligence Brief, with new research, policy across the states, and tools from the field of Attendance Science™.

QUESTIONS info@attendanceusa.org

LEARN MORE attendanceusa.org

HANDOUTS Seat Card (A) and Find Your Data worksheet (B)

KEEP GOING IN THIS SERIES

Seat 16: Getting There: Transportation and School Stability

Seat 17: Hidden Homelessness and Mid-Year Moves

Seat 18: Unaccompanied and Working Youth



Take Your Seat

1,000 Seats campaign

*Every seat filled is one more person working to make
showing up possible.*

