THE SEAT SERIES · FREE ATTENDANCE SCIENCE™ RESOURCE

SEAT 16

McKinney-Vento Liaisons · Pre-K to 12

Getting There: Transportation and School Stability

How do we solve the ride so a student can stay in the school of origin?



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

Kayla, Marcus and the ride that decides attendance

> Kayla's attendance depended on which of three adults had a car that day. Marcus was suspended three times for being late to first period because he walked his sister to an elementary school with an earlier start. In both cases the barrier was a ride and a schedule, and the fix cost almost nothing.

Source: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 3 (Antoine and Kayla, composite cases); Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 7 (Marcus, composite case)



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

What liaisons are asking

How do we solve the ride so a student can stay in the school of origin?

1

Moves cut students off from their school.

2

Transportation costs fall between budgets.

3

Bus routes rarely reflect where families now live.

Shared words before shared work

T

Transportation to school of origin

Required at the request of a parent, guardian or the liaison for an unaccompanied youth.

E

Excess cost

Transport costs beyond what a district would ordinarily spend.

B

Best interest

School placement decided in the student's best interest, with a presumption toward the school of origin.

The numbers behind the moment

14.1%

of long-term absences linked to transportation barriers

OECD report on long-term student absence (causes reported)

Title I

homeless set-aside funds can cover excess transport to the school of origin

U.S. ED and U.S. DOT Fact Sheet: Bolstering Daily School Attendance Through Transportation

EHCY

grants can buy fare cards, gas cards, mileage or rerouted buses

U.S. ED and U.S. DOT Fact Sheet: Bolstering Daily School Attendance Through Transportation

Classify before you consequence

Withdrawal

No ride is the most fixable absence of all.

Avoidance

Unsafe walking routes and bus stops. Map and adjust.

Refusal

Anxiety about a new bus. Travel training and a buddy.

Truancy

Check the route before assuming choice.

Three moves you can make this week

01

Cost: $0

Map routes and absence

Overlay bus routes and walking zones on chronic absence.

02

Partner

Braid transport funds

Combine Title I set-aside, EHCY and partner support.

03

Low cost

Walking bus

Organize a chaperoned walking or bike bus for nearby families.

A PRESENCE™ prompt for your building

P	R	E	S	E	N	C	E
Problem definition	Research evidence	Environmental context	**Statistical analysis**	Equity assessment	**Network and partnership**	Compliance and legal	Evidence-based recommendations

YOUR PROMPT

Cross-reference tardy and absence data with siblings at schools that have different start times, and with route changes after moves.



Common missteps, and how you will know it works

- ✕ Delaying transport while costs are negotiated
- ✕ Assuming public transit works for young children
- ✕ Ignoring start-time conflicts between siblings' schools

LEADING INDICATOR · Moves first

Days from request to first ride

LAGGING INDICATOR · Confirms it worked

Attendance after transport begins

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Seat 15: McKinney-Vento Basics
Seat 17: Hidden Homelessness and Mid-Year Moves
Seat 18: Unaccompanied and Working Youth



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