THE SEAT SERIES · FREE ATTENDANCE SCIENCE™ RESOURCE

SEAT 17

McKinney-Vento Liaisons · Pre-K to 12

Hidden Homelessness and Mid-Year Moves



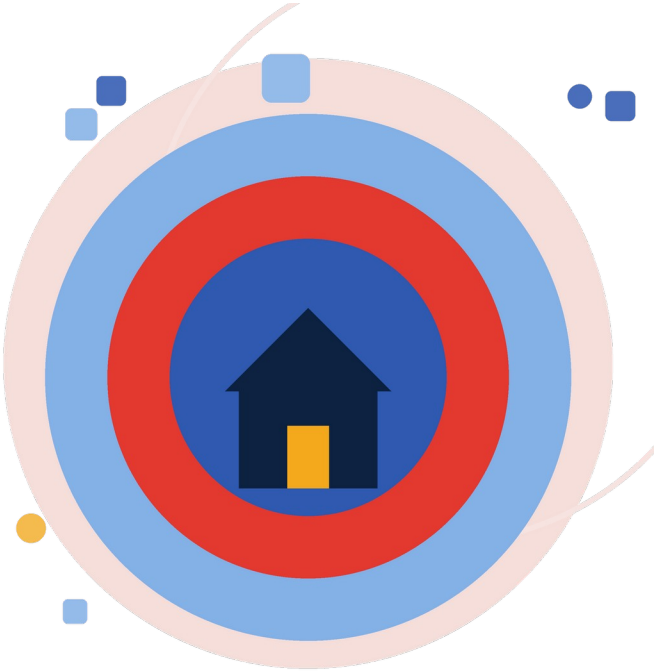
How do we see students who are doubled up or moving often before their attendance falls apart?

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

Four schools, four addresses

> Every rent increase moved Denise's family. Antoine lost his bus route, then his school zone. Teachers wrote him up as inattentive and behind. Nobody asked about the moves, and Denise, wary of judgment, did not volunteer them.

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



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

What liaisons are asking

How do we see students who are doubled up or moving often before their attendance falls apart?

1

Doubled-up students rarely appear on any list.

2

Each move costs weeks of learning and connection.

3

Families fear judgment and stay silent.

Shared words before shared work

D

Doubled up

Sharing another person's housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

M

Mobility

Changes of school or residence during the year.

H

Housing, Environment & Mobility

GG-FSI Domain 2: a safe home, freedom from involuntary moves, reliable transportation.

The numbers behind the moment

4

elementary schools Antoine attended by fourth grade

Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 3 (Antoine and Kayla, composite cases)

Readiness

early childhood housing instability is associated with weaker school readiness

Ziol-Guest & McKenna (2014), Child Development 85(1)

Change

repeated family transitions are linked to more child behavior problems

Fomby & Cherlin (2007), American Sociological Review

Classify before you consequence

Withdrawal

Moves and instability. Liaison, transport and stability supports.

Avoidance

A new school that feels unwelcoming. Assign a welcome buddy.

Refusal

Stress after loss. Counseling and a predictable routine.

Truancy

Check housing first.

Three moves you can make this week

01

Cost: $0

Ask the mobility question

How many times has this student changed schools or homes in three years?

02

Cost: $0

Welcome transfers

A buddy and an adult contact for every mid-year arrival.

03

Cost: $0

Share records quickly

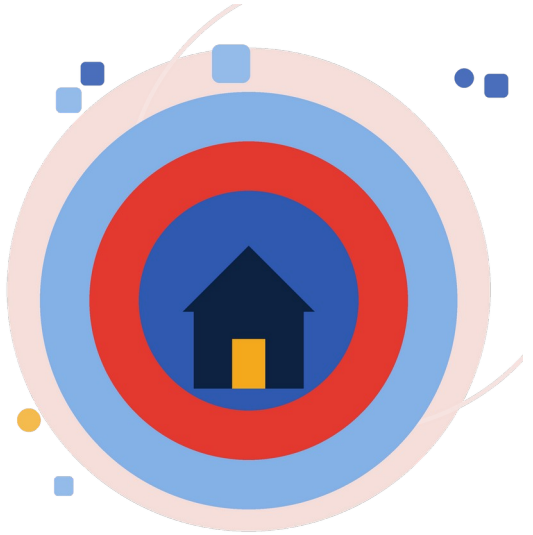
Request records and credits the day a student enrolls.

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

Count mid-year school changes per student and compare next-semester attendance and discipline. Look for groups most affected.



Common missteps, and how you will know it works

- ✕ Labeling mobility as behavior
- ✕ Waiting for families to disclose housing loss
- ✕ Losing partial credits in transfers

LEADING INDICATOR · Moves first

Mid-year arrivals with a welcome plan

LAGGING INDICATOR · Confirms it worked

Attendance in the first 60 days after a move

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 15: McKinney-Vento Basics
Seat 16: Getting There: Transportation and School Stability
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.