



PURPOSE

The intent of the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is to remove all educational barriers facing children and youth experiencing homelessness, with an emphasis on educational enrollment, attendance, and success.

WHO QUALIFIES

Children and youth under 21 that lack a fixed, regular, and adequate primary nighttime residence

Including students who:

- Live with friends or relatives due to financial hardship
- Live in motels, hotels, inadequate housing, or campgrounds
- Live in emergency shelters or transitional housing
- Live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing or similar settings
- Youth not in the physical custody of a parent (unaccompanied youth) who are living in the above circumstances

It is important to note, children and youth in **doubled-up situations** are considered homeless under the education definition only if they are sharing the housing of others **due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason**.

People who are sharing housing in permanent, adequate, and voluntary arrangements do not meet the education definition of homelessness. Children and youth in doubled-up and motel situations are extremely vulnerable, living in precarious, unstable, and sometimes unsafe conditions. They may suffer the life-long impacts of toxic stress if their living situations are not stabilized.

Many homeless families with children, and unaccompanied youth, are forced into motels or other temporary situations because there is no family or youth shelter available in the community, shelters are full, some shelters have policies that separate the family, or shelters prohibit unaccompanied minors.

UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

In addition to providing a definition of homeless, the McKinney-Vento Act defines unaccompanied youth as youth who fit the definition of homeless and are "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian" [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)].

- The number of unaccompanied homeless youth identified and served in Colorado public schools increased 55% in a five year timeframe, from 1,325 in the 2009-10 school year to 2,052 in the 2014-15 school year.
- These youth are perhaps the most vulnerable, as they are dealing with the crises of homelessness without a safe, supportive parent or guardian

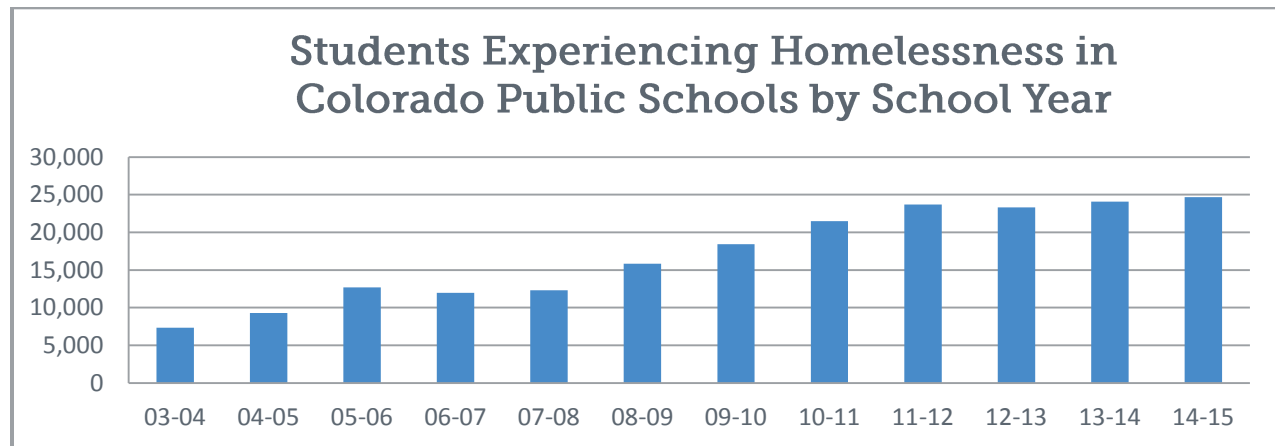
Educational Rights of McKinney-Vento Eligible Children and Youth

- A McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison in every school district
- Immediate enrollment
- Choice between the neighborhood school or the school of origin (school last enrolled in or attended)
- Transportation to the school of origin
- Immediate access to free school meals and other school resources
- Automatic eligibility for Title IA of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN COLORADO

During the 2014-15 school year, Colorado public schools identified and served 24,685 students experiencing homelessness in grades PK-12.

Since the 2003-04 school year the number of public school students experiencing homelessness in Colorado has tripled.



*Based on Federal US ED End of Year Collections

Where can I learn more?

Dr. Jamie Rife, State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

- Ph: 303-866-6930 Email: Rife_J@cde.state.co.us
- http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_index

For more information on McKinney-Vento implementation at the district level please contact the local district liaison. A complete list of McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaisons can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_liaisons

Additional data on Colorado's Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_data

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B was reauthorized December 10, 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A summary of the major amendments on homelessness in ESSA can be found on the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth website: <http://www.naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/legis/NofootnoteSUMMARYJuly16.pdf>