



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 qualify for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program. This includes students who:

- Share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason
- 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

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. If shelters are available, many are full or may have policies that separate the family or 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)].

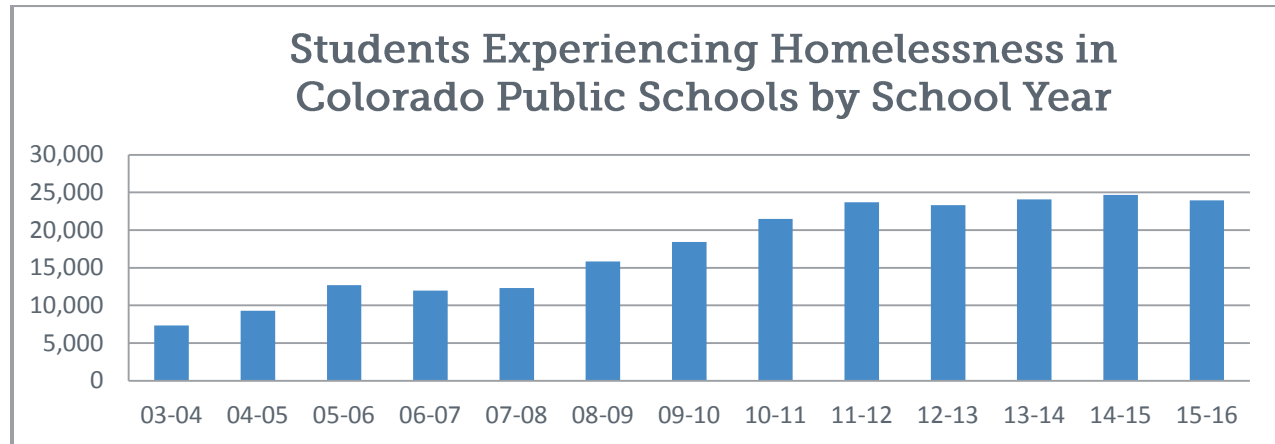
- The number of unaccompanied homeless youth identified and served in Colorado public schools shows incremental increases, from 1,325 in the 2009-10 school year to 1,845 in the 2015-16 school year.
- These youth are perhaps the most vulnerable, as they are dealing with the crisis of homelessness without 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 I, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN COLORADO

During the 2015-16 school year, Colorado public schools identified and served 23,954 students experiencing homelessness in grades PK-12.



*Based on Federal U.S. ED End of Year Collections

Where can I learn more?

- To learn more visit the [Colorado Department of Education Homeless Education webpage](#) or contact Kerry Wrenick, at wrenick_k@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6930
- For information on district McKinney-Vento implementation contact local district liaisons. [View the complete list liaisons.](#)
- [View additional data on Colorado's Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program.](#)
- [View a summary from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth on major Amendments on Homelessness and Foster Care in "The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015."](#)
- [View all CDE fact sheets.](#)