



## Highly Mobile Student Defined

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A highly mobile student is defined as a student who experiences (or is at risk of experiencing) multiple school moves during their K-12 education outside of the regular grade promotion. Impacted populations include (but are not limited to): students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migrant students.

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

There are state and federal laws that require all 178 school districts in Colorado to assign a **Local Homeless Liaison**. The primary responsibility of the liaison is to identify and provide educational supports to students experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

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**Homeless Education Webpage:** [http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless\\_index](http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_index)

### Foster Care

Each school district must also identify a single point of contact to serve as the **Child Welfare Education Liaison (CWEL)** to work with child welfare agencies to promote educational stability and seamless transitions for students in foster care.

Although students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care are two completely separate student populations, their educational rights under these laws are nearly identical (e.g. right to remain in their school of origin, fees waived, immediate enrollment regardless of records, free lunch).

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**Foster Care Education Webpage:** [http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/fostercare\\_index](http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/fostercare_index)

### Migrant Education Program (MEP)

**The Migrant Education Program (MEP)** was created in 1966 to meet the needs of migrant children and families. The purpose of this program is to ensure migratory children are not penalized in any manner by disparities among curriculum, graduation requirements, academic content and student academic achievement standards to ensure that they are provided with appropriate educational services to succeed in school and graduate being postsecondary education or employment ready. MEP funds to five regions to identify migrant families and deliver services throughout the state.

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**Migrant Education Webpage:** <http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant>

## Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Specific Higher Ed and Transition Information

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### Overview

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act reduces barriers and protects the rights of homeless children and young people allowing them to access and succeed in K12 education. In partnership with the Higher Education Act, these programs assist unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) in graduating from high school, applying for and accessing postsecondary education and completing degrees.



## College Cost Reduction and Access Act

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) of 2007 made significant changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) allowing UHY to qualify as independent students for purposes of receiving federal financial aid.

These changes meant UHY did not need to report parental information or have parental signatures on the FAFSA forms. As a result, they could more easily obtain the financial support needed to pursue educational opportunities.

The CCRAA lists the following four authorized verifiers of unaccompanied homeless youth status: 1. A McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison. 2. The director (or designee) of an emergency shelter program funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 3. The director (or designee) of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program. 4. A college financial aid administrator.

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison (Colorado UHY Verification Form)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Director or Designee\*
- HUD Director or Designee\*
- Financial Aid Administrator

## Single Points of Contact at Higher Education Institutions

What is a SPOC? A supportive college administrator on each campus who is committed to helping homeless youth (and often foster youth) successfully navigate the higher education system.

What do SPOCs assist students with? UHY determination - FAFSA completion/financial aid access – admissions – campus/community housing - academic advising – connections to on and off campus support.

How do SPOCs help to serve unaccompanied homeless youth?

- Understanding the definition of homeless used in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act
- Distributing awareness materials
- Training, encouraging collaboration and building relationships among offices or programs that can provide support to students in need.

### Where do I find a list of SPOCs?

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless\\_highered](http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_highered)

## Scholarships Specific to Homeless, Foster, and Migrant Students

### Homeless Education

National Association for Education of Homeless Children and Youth: <http://naehcy.org/naehcy-scholarship-fund/>

Additional scholarships for homeless students: <http://naehcy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Additional-Scholarship-Resources.pdf>

### Foster Care Education

Foster Care Transition Toolkit: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/foster-care/youth-transition-toolkit.pdf>

Education Training Vouchers: <http://www.fc2sprograms.org/colorado/>

Denver Foundation Scholarships: <https://denverfoundation.academicworks.com/opportunities/381>

Forward Steps Scholarship: <https://www.forwardsteps.org/>

### Migrant Education

Migrant Education Specific Scholarships and Resources: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant/resources>

College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP): <http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant/resources>