



Homeless Education: Students in Transition

August 30, 2013

Changes

- No certificates
- Required Liaison Training – May?
One training in each grand division
- Special Populations

- Stewart B. McKinney Act, 1987 (1990, 1994)
- 2001, reauthorization and name change to McKinney-Vento Act
- Provides states with funding to support local grants and statewide initiatives
- Requires educational *access, attendance,* and *success* for homeless children and youth
- Outlines responsibilities for local liaisons and state coordinators

Who is homeless?

Lacks “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”:

- Doubled-up (economic hardship – not by choice)
- Motels, hotels, campgrounds, trailers
(no alternative adequate accommodations)
- Emergency or transitional shelters
- Public or private place not designated for human living such as
cars, parks, substandard housing, abandoned buildings, bus/train stations
- Migrant children fitting the definition

- “A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.”
- “A regular residence is one which is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis.”
- “An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.”

Unaccompanied Youth

“not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian”

- Living situation meets homeless definition
- Eligible for services regardless of reason for separation
 - Ran away
 - Forced to leave home
- All protections and rights including immediate enrollment apply

District Obligations

- Appoint a Local Homeless Education Liaison
- Remove barriers to education, including revising district policy
- Ensure compliance with Title X, Part C/McKinney-Vento Act
- Immunization Report

Barriers

- Enrollment requirements (lack of school records, immunizations, proof of residence and guardianship)
- High mobility (lack of school stability and educational continuity)
- School supplies, clothing, etc.
- Access to programs
- Transportation
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- Prejudice and misunderstanding

Immunization

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-5001(g)

- ❖ LEAs report homeless numbers by school of students who, at the time of enrollment, were without immunization records.
- ❖ The average time to be immunized or obtain immunization records. Example, 6 days.

Local Liaisons

- Identify homeless students
- Ensure enrollment, attendance, and full and equal opportunity for success
- Ensure families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible

Head Start, Even Start, referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services

Local Liaisons con't.

- Provide parents or guardians with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
- Disseminate public notice of the educational rights where children and youth receive services
- Enrollment disputes
- Inform parents of all transportation services available

First Step is Identification

- Outreach is key –posters, key contacts (schools, shelters, hotels, motels, campgrounds, churches, social services, law enforcement, food banks, medical clinics, laundromats)
- Make schools welcoming environments
- School staff awareness
- Residency enrollment form – In Transition
- School/district parent handbook(s)

Determining Eligibility

- Obtain information
- Analyze against the definition
 - Does the living situation fit one of the examples?
 - Is the living situation fixed, regular, and adequate?
- Seek assistance (State Coordinator, NCHE, colleagues)
- Case-by-case determination

Student Rights

- Immediate enrollment, even if lacking paperwork
- School selection
 - School of origin (if feasible) or local school
- Transportation to/from school of origin
- Comparable services
- Prohibition of segregation
- Public posting of rights
- Free school meals
- Title I, Part A support
- Special Education, where deemed necessary

Things to Consider

When is doubled up not homeless?

- Why did the family move in together? Crisis or by mutual choice as a plan for mutual benefit?
- How permanent is the living arrangement meant to be?
- Where would the family live if not doubling up?
- Is the living situation fixed, regular, and adequate?

Is there a time limit on how long a family can be considered homeless?

- No. Duration of homelessness varies greatly.
- Is the living situation fixed, regular, and adequate?

School Selection

Where can homeless children attend school?

Children and youth experiencing homelessness can, according to their best interest,:

- Enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend,
- Stay in their school of origin.

School Selection

- School of origin: school attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled
- Best interest: keep homeless students in their school of origin to the extent feasible, unless this is against the parent's or guardian's wishes

Feasibility

USDOE Sample Criteria

- Continuity of instruction
- Age of the child or youth
- Safety of the child or youth
- Length of stay at the shelter
- Likely area where family will find permanent housing
- Student's need for special instructional programs
- Impact of commute on education
- School placement of siblings
- Time remaining in the school year

Title I Set-Asides

- Title I requires a set aside to serve homeless students
- No set method for determining amount
- No specific list of approved activities except that funds must be used to support the academic achievement of the child

Transportation

Title IA set-aside funds **cannot** be used to supplant other federal, state or local funds. So, Title I funds may **not** be used to provide transportation for homeless students to and from the school of origin during the school day (mandated under MV). Neither can school districts use Title I funds for programs or services that state laws or policies require districts to provide.

Title I Set-Asides

May not use funds for

- X Rent
- X Utilities
- X Clothing for parents
- X Transportation to school of origin
- X Supplanting other available funds
- X Programs or services that state laws or policies require districts to provide

Types of Services

- ✓ Clothing: daily dress/uniform/PE requirement
- ✓ Student fees necessary to participate in the general education program (lab, AP, IB, SAT/ACT)
- ✓ School supplies
- ✓ Enrollment necessities: birth certificates, immunizations
- ✓ Medical and dental services
- ✓ Eyeglasses and hearing aids

Types of Services

- ✓ Counseling and Outreach services
- ✓ Extended learning time (before/after school, Saturday classes, summer school to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions)
- ✓ Tutoring services - especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live
- ✓ Parental involvement
- ✓ GED testing for school-age students
- ✓ Food

TN – A Fee Waiver State!

TN Code Ann. § 49-2-114. Waiver of school fees.

- (a) LEAs shall establish, pursuant to rules promulgated by the state board of education, a process by which to waive all school fees for students who receive free or reduced price school lunches.

- (b) "School fees" means:
 - (1) Fees for activities that occur during regular school hours;
 - (2) Fees for activities and supplies required to participate in all courses offered for credit or grade;
 - (3) Fees or tuition applicable to courses taken during the summer by a student, except that nonresident students regularly enrolled in another school system may be required to pay fees or tuition for such summer courses; and
 - (4) Fees required for graduation ceremonies.

State Laws

TN Code Ann. § 49-2-110 (2012)

Student activity funds

(c) The school shall not require any student to pay a fee to the school for any purpose, except as authorized by the board of education, and **no** fees or tuitions shall be required of any student as a condition to attending the public school or using its equipment while receiving educational training.

McKinney-Vento Subgrants

- Competitive
- Funds in addition to Title I set-aside
- Third year of a three-year grant
- Currently 13 LEA recipients three-year grant
- May be used for transportation to school of origin
- New multi-year grant application this spring

Nudge Your Neighbor

Chris, a sixteen-year-old, has just come to your school to enroll. He said he left home because he can't get along with his stepfather and is staying with a friend. His mother says he has a perfectly good home and the school should not enroll him.

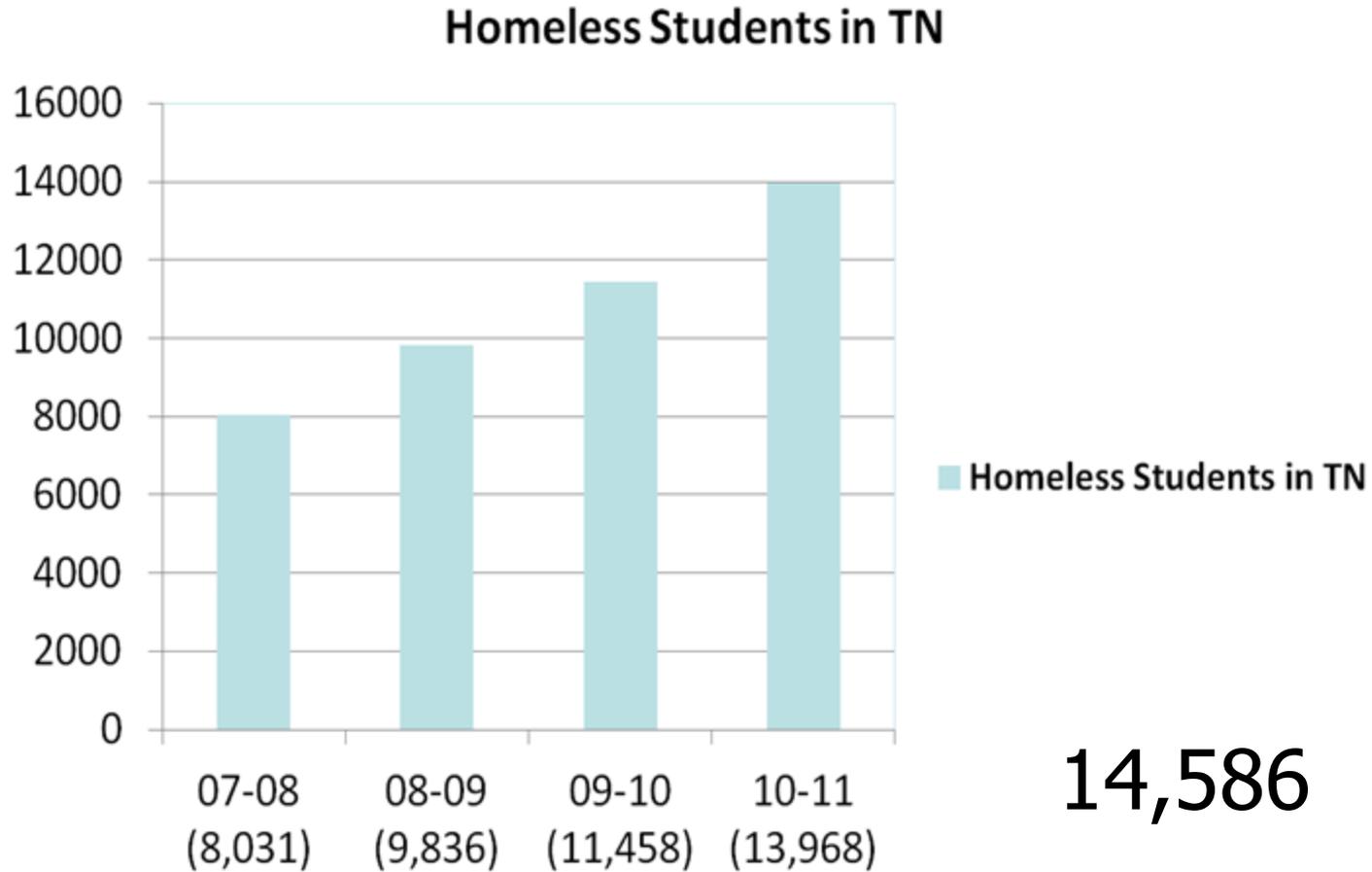
- Should you enroll him?
- How should schools help unaccompanied homeless youth? Educational needs? Beyond education?

Coding

Homeless McKinney-Vento: A homeless student served by federal McKinney-Vento funds any time during the school year Y/N

You only mark “yes” if you are receiving a homeless subgrant.

Number of Children Homeless in TN



TN Compared to Neighbors

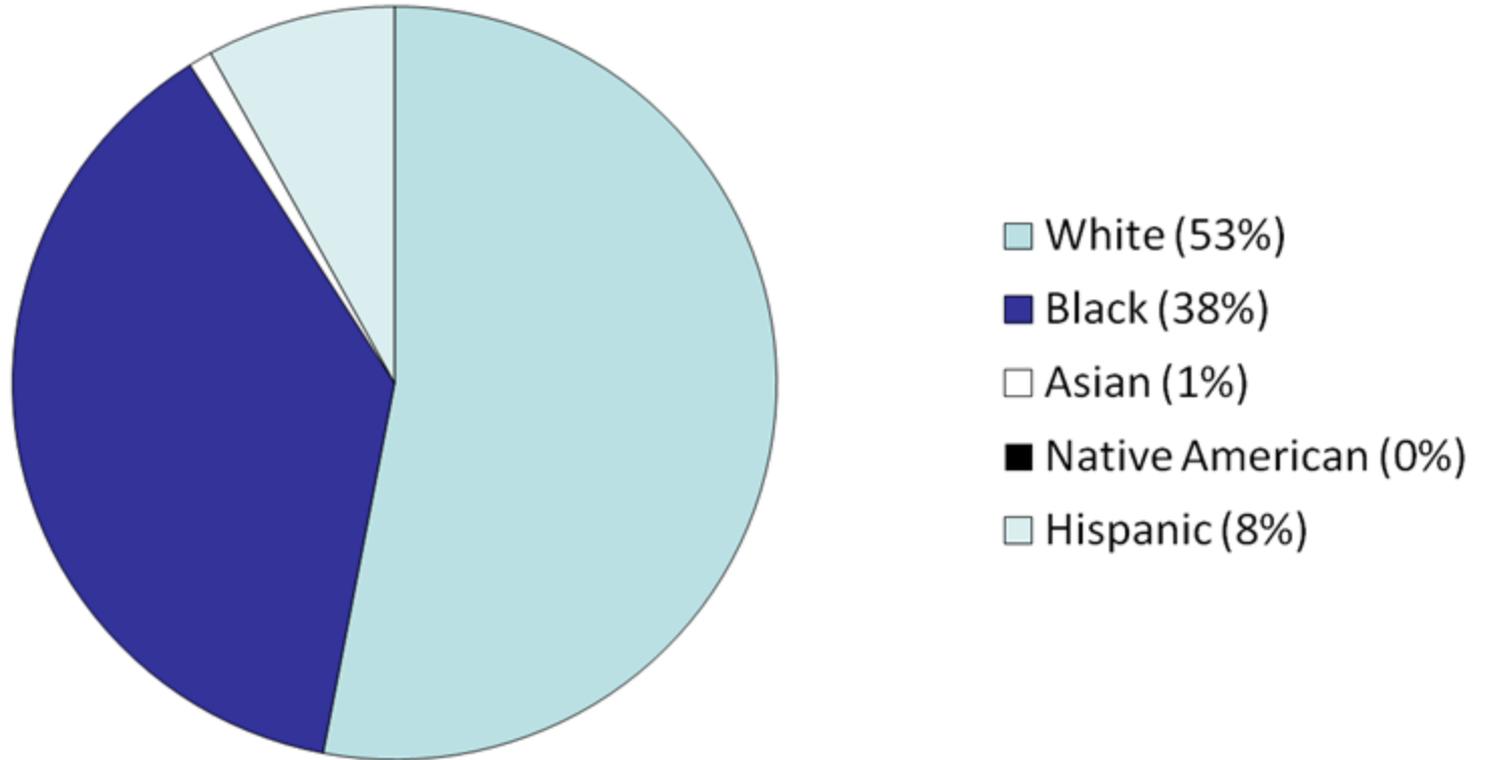
■ TN	13,968 (10-11)	14,586 (11-12)
■ KY	33,966	35,685
■ GA	31,804	34,101
■ MS	10,150	11,448
■ AL	18,901	17,670

Quick Facts

- **1** child born into poverty every **33** seconds -2618
- 15.1% of all Americans live in poverty
- 1 in 5 are children
- 37% of children will live in poverty at some time in their life
- 37% rural homeless population is between the ages of 18 and 24, compared to 13% of the urban population

Tennessee Children Living in Poverty

Race/Ethnicity - Living in poverty



Quick Facts

- 57% of rural homeless are part of a family versus 45% of urban homeless
- 1,065,794 K-12 Students (U.S. 2010-2011)
- 19,820 est. (TN)
- 13,968 (TN)
- Estimate – 10% of those on FRL will be homeless

TN District Homeless Counts 2012

	FRL %	# on FRL	# Homeless	10%	Current %
A	63.7%	2350	0	235	
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					

TN District Homeless Counts 2012

	FRL %	# on FRL	# Homeless	10%	Current %
A	63.7%	2350	0	235	
B	40.5%	1565	10	156	.6%
C					
D					
E					
F					

TN District Homeless Counts 2012

	FRL %	# on FRL	# Homeless	10%	Current %
A	63.7%	2350	0	235	
B	40.5%	1565	10	156	.6%
C	63.5%	6516	981	651	15%
D					
E					
F					

TN District Homeless Counts 2012

	FRL %	# on FRL	# Homeless	10%	Current %
A	63.7%	2350	0	235	
B	40.5%	1565	10	156	.6%
C	63.5%	6516	981	651	15%
D	12.2%	4066	34	406	.8%
E					
F					

TN District Homeless Counts 2012

	FRL %	# on FRL	# Homeless	10%	Current %
A	63.7%	2350	0	235	
B	40.5%	1565	10	156	.6%
C	63.5%	6516	981	651	15%
D	12.2%	4066	34	406	.8%
E	79.4%	85870	2366	8587	2.7%
F					

TN District Homeless Counts 2012

	FRL %	# on FRL	# Homeless	10%	Current %
A	63.7%	2350	0	235	
B	40.5%	1565	10	156	.6%
C	63.5%	6516	981	651	15%
D	12.2%	4066	34	406	.8%
E	79.4%	85870	2366	8587	2.7%
F	55.5%	565	47	56	8%

Research shows that homeless children are

- 2.5X more likely to perform below grade level in math
- 1.5X more ... in reading
- 1.5X more ... in spelling
- 2X - Learning Disabilities
- 3X - Emotional and behavioral problems
- 4X - Delayed Development

Effects Continued

- More likely to drop out - 25% are graduated from high school
- 83% exposed to at least one violent event by the age of 12
- 25% witnessed family violence
- 4X more likely to be sick
- 2X more likely to experience hunger

Resources

- NCHE website: www.serve.org/nche
National Center for Homeless Education
- NCHE helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- Other national organizations:
NAEHCY www.naehcy.org
National Association for the Education of Homeless
Children and Youth
NLCHP www.nlchp.org
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

USDE OIG Hotline

- Anyone suspecting fraud, waste or abuse involving Department of Education funds or programs should call or write the Inspector General's Hotline:
- Send an email message to oig.hotline@ed.gov
- Call the OIG Hotline toll free: 1-800-MIS-USED.
- To ensure complete anonymity, download a hardcopy of [the special complaint form](#), complete, and mail to:
- Inspector General's Hotline
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QUESTIONS?



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