



# “10 IN 10”

## ORIENTATION TUTORIAL FOR NEW STATE COORDINATORS FOR THE EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM 10 TEN-MINUTE MODULES

**MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND  
THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT**

# MODULE I OVERVIEW

In Module I, State Coordinators will learn about

- National data on children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Educational barriers they face
- Key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act
- LEA requirements

*Abbreviations used in this module:*

*ED – U. S. Department of Education*

*EHCY – Education for Homeless Children and Youth*

*LEA – Local educational agency*

*Local liaison – LEA local homeless liaison*

*NCHE – National Center for Homeless Education*

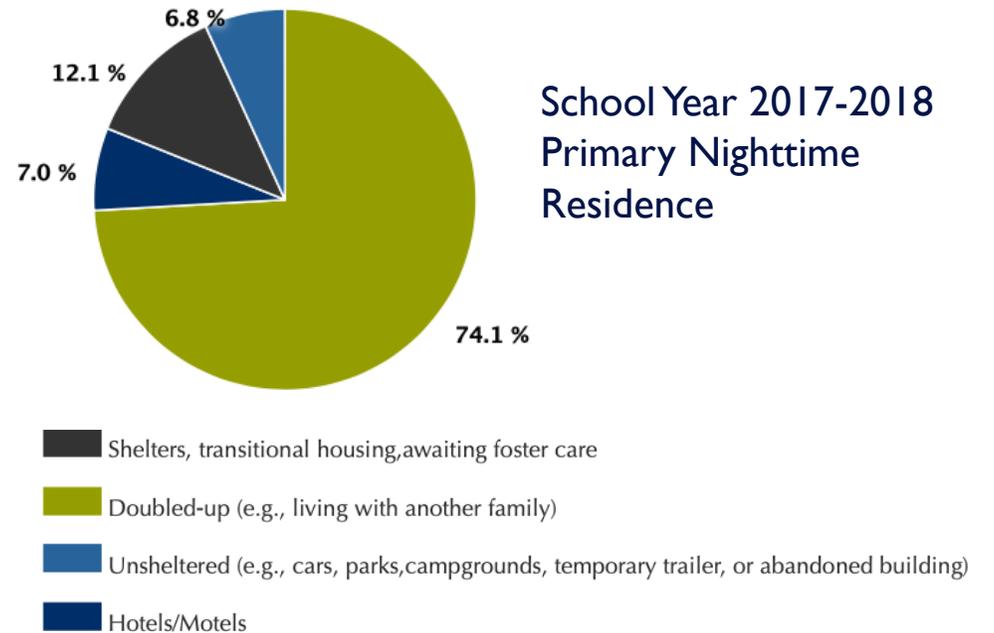
*SEA – State educational agency*



# NUMBER OF STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL – THE NATIONAL PICTURE

- Data submitted to the U.S. Department of Education show that in school year 2017-2018, schools identified 1,504,544 students experiencing homelessness.\*
- The number of students experiencing homelessness has increased every year.
- The figure to the right shows the primary nighttime residence of these students.

\*NCHE [National Data Summary](#)



For data on students experiencing homelessness in your state, visit the [State Profiles](#) page on the NCHE website.

# EDUCATIONAL BARRIERS FACED BY CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Trauma related to losing their housing, belongings, routines, and friends
- Unmet basic needs – food, clothing, and medical care
- Educational disruption due to changing schools or lack of regular attendance
- Problems enrolling without required records
- For unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, difficulty enrolling without a parent or guardian
- Poor academic performance and lack of credit accrual



# THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: AN OVERVIEW

- Enacted in 1987 as a subtitle of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized most recently in 2015 as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as [Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- Ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness can enroll in and attend school without barriers
- Requires SEAs and LEAs to ensure **immediate enrollment, school stability, and academic support** to increase educational success
- Requires the appointment of a local homeless liaison in every school district or LEA
- Requires a State Coordinator for every state's EHCY program
- Requires allocation of 75% of a state's federal McKinney-Vento grant to LEAs as competitive subgrants except minimally funded states (those receiving less than \$150,000) which must allocate 50% to LEAs



# THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: LEA REQUIREMENTS

## [42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)]

- According to the student's best interest, continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness.
  - The term “school of origin” means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled, including a preschool.
- In determining the best interest of the child or youth for where he or she should attend school, presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest; consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest.
- Immediately enroll a child or youth experiencing homelessness even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.\*

*\*Text on the provisions in the law has been shortened for brevity; read the full text of the [McKinney-Vento Act](#) for exact language and details.*



# THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAS SERVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS [42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)]

- If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment in a school, the child must be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending the final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals; the LEA must provide the parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness) the youth with a written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, the LEA, or the SEA, including the right to appeal such decisions.
- Each child or youth experiencing homelessness assisted under the McKinney-Vento Act must be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected for attendance, including transportation services, services for which the child or youth meets eligibility criteria, programs in career and technical education (CTE), programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs.



# THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAS SERVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS [42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)]

- LEAs must coordinate
  - the provision of services with local services agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to children and youth experiencing homelessness and their families, and
  - transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities, with other LEAs.
- If applicable, SEAs and LEAs must coordinate with state and local housing agencies to minimize educational disruption for children and youth who become homeless.



# THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAS SERVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS [42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)]

- The purpose of coordination is to (i) ensure that all children and youth experiencing homelessness are promptly identified, (ii) ensure that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to, and are in reasonable proximity to, available education and related support services, and (iii) raise awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.
- For children and youth who are served under the McKinney-Vento Act and who have disabilities, the LEA must coordinate the provision of services with the provision of programs for children with disabilities and other involved LEAs.

*(Additional requirements will be covered in subsequent modules.)*



## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How many children and youth experiencing homelessness has your state identified?
2. What are three educational barriers that children and youth experiencing homelessness face?
3. What are three requirements for LEAs in serving children and youth experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act?
4. In determining where a child or youth experiencing homelessness should attend school, what is generally presumed to be in the child's or youth's best interest?
5. What is the purpose of coordination described in the McKinney-Vento Act?



# RESOURCES

- [Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program: Non-regulatory Guidance](#)
- [The McKinney-Vento Act: Education for Homeless Children and Youths, Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 \(42 U.S.C. Chapter 119, Subchapter VI, Part B: Education for Homeless Children and Youths §§ 11431-11435\)](#)
- [NCHE Brief: Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: An Introduction to the Issues](#)
- [NCHE: Data and Statistics on Homelessness](#)
- [NCHE: Resources for State Coordinators](#)

