

Students in Transition

McKinney-Vento:

Education of Homeless Children

and Youth Assistance Act

AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

“The McKinney Vento Homeless Act”

The McKinney Vento Homeless Act
was reauthorized in 2015 with the
“Every Student Succeeds Act”

McKinney-Vento – Who is Eligible?

Children and Youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence...

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardships, or similar reasons
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations

McKinney-Vento – Who is eligible?

Children and youth who lack a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence...

- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or regularly used as accommodations
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing bus or train station or similar setting
- Migratory children

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

A child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

- Youth run away due to abuse or neglect
- 40-60% of unaccompanied youth were physically abused at home
- 17-33% of unaccompanied youth were abused sexually at home
- Research links parental substance abuse with youth running away from home

Educational Impact

- 42% of students who experienced homelessness say they dropped out of school at least once
- Homelessness is associated with an 87% likelihood of dropping out of school, chronic absenteeism and disproportionate school discipline
- Over time, the achievement gaps between homeless and low-income elementary students tend to persist and may even worsen

SIT Students Must Be Enrolled Immediately

- Even without records....of any kind
 - Work on getting the necessary documents after enrollment
- 62% of McKinney-Vento students said that proof of residency requirements posed a major challenge for them when enrolling in a new school
- 56% said lack of cooperation between their new and old school (records transfer) posed a major challenge
- 60% found changing schools were difficult to navigate
- For example, sending students to the SIT Department to complete enrollment

SIT Students Must Be Enrolled Immediately

- SIT students are entitled to immediate enrollment in any public school of other students living in the same attendance....EVEN IF....
 - Students do not have required documents such as school records, records of immunizations and other required health records, proof of residency, guardianship or other documents

SIT Students Must Be Enrolled Immediately

- Enrollment includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities
- The SIT Department must assist in obtaining immunizations and other health records or screenings, if needed
- Enrolling school must obtain school records from the previous school; the students must be enrolled while records are being obtained
- Immediate enrollment applies even without parents or guardians (unaccompanied youth)

Student's Rights

- Parents/Guardians/Students may appeal district decisions regarding eligibility, enrollment or placement.
- See District policy IGBCA

Identifying SIT Scholars In SIS

When you are reviewing Scholars In SIS and you see the Icon below in the right hand corner, that is the indicator that the scholar is a Student in Transition.



Gatekeepers



School secretaries are the gatekeepers.

You...

- Set the tone of the conversation
- Provide the link for successful access to school
- Ask the right questions
- Refer to our District Coordinator – Stephanie Shumpert

Set the Tone

- Refrain from using “homeless”
- Use “Student in Transition”
- Respect is key
- Tact is critical

When enrolling do..



Ask:

- *“Are there any circumstances that we should be aware of?”*
- *“Are you currently sharing housing with a relative or friend?”*

Provide parent, guardian with info such as:

- *Students in Transition Pamphlet*
- *McKinney-Vento Pamphlet*

When enrolling do..



- Assist parents with the District's online enrollment (if needed)
- SIT students should be enrolled in the same manner in which all other students are enrolled
- District enrollment should **not** be sent to the SIT Department
- SIT Enrollment Link includes the regular enrollment **AND** the additional pages specific to SIT families

After enrollment...



- Inform the SIT Office via SIT@rgsd.k12.mo.us
- Provide student's name, grade level and school
- SIT Department will retrieve the needed documents from the enrollment portal
- SIT Department will send the necessary pages to be filed in the student's file

SIT Department Responsibility

- Arrange Transportation for SIT students
- Academic & Attendance Monitoring
- Alternative Program Placement
- Consultation on Discipline
- Provide Resources
- Data Collection & Reporting
- Overall support of SIT families

Additional Information

The Law: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act..

Provides:

- School stability
- School access
- Support for academic success
- Child-centered, best interest decision making

School Stability & Selection

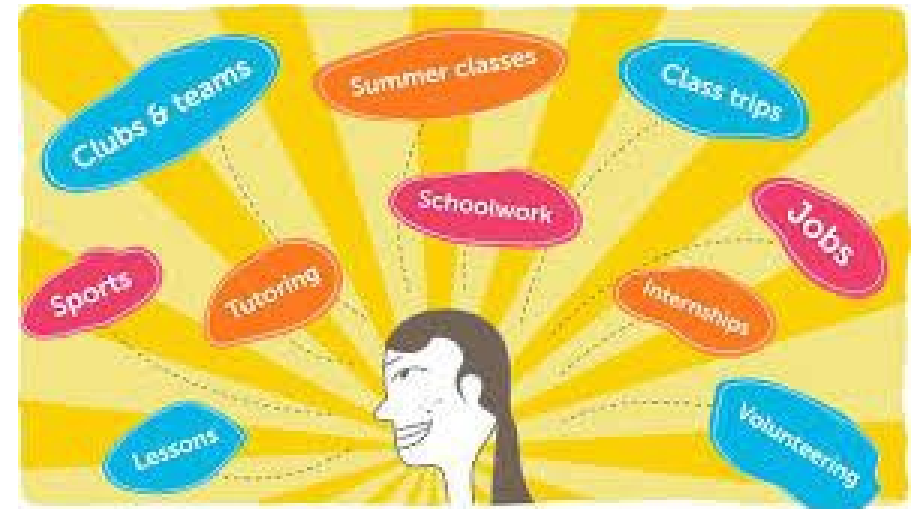
- Children and youth experiencing homelessness can stay in their school of origin.
- School of origin—school attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled.
- Students can stay in their school of origin the entire time they are homeless, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.
- Best interest—keep students who are homeless in their school of origin, unless against the parents' or guardians' wishes.

SIT Students should not.....

- Receive attendance letters
 - Send attendance letters to the SIT Department
- Be suspended from school w/o consultation with SIT Coordinator
- Be excluded from school activities, athletics, school clubs, etc.
- Be excluded from career and technical educational opportunities

Access to Services

Students who experience homelessness must have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including special education, programs for English learners, gifted and talented programs, voc./tech. programs, and after school activities.



RGSD's Responsibility

- **Remove barriers** for our SIT families
- Support the success of our families (academic, behavior, resources)
- Understand the traumatic affects of homelessness of our students (academics, behavior, etc.)
- Train staff twice per year on SIT enrollment and expectations
- Support students towards college and career readiness
- Ensure that all SIT families are immediately enrolled – with or without previous school records, proof of residency, etc.

Riverview Gardens- Students in Transition Office

Stephanie Shumpert SIT Coordinator
Ext. 32139

Vannessa Mallory
Home to School Coordinator
Ext. 32138

Karen Graham
Administrative Assistant
Ext. 32151

SIT Office located in Moline
Elementary School



Any questions?