

# TA #1 McKinney-Vento and Homeless Identification

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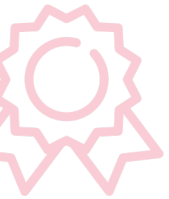
## VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



## MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



1

**ALL** Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

**EVERY** Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

**EVERY** Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

**EVERY** School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



**EVERY** Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



**EVERY** School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

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# Microsoft Teams Reminders

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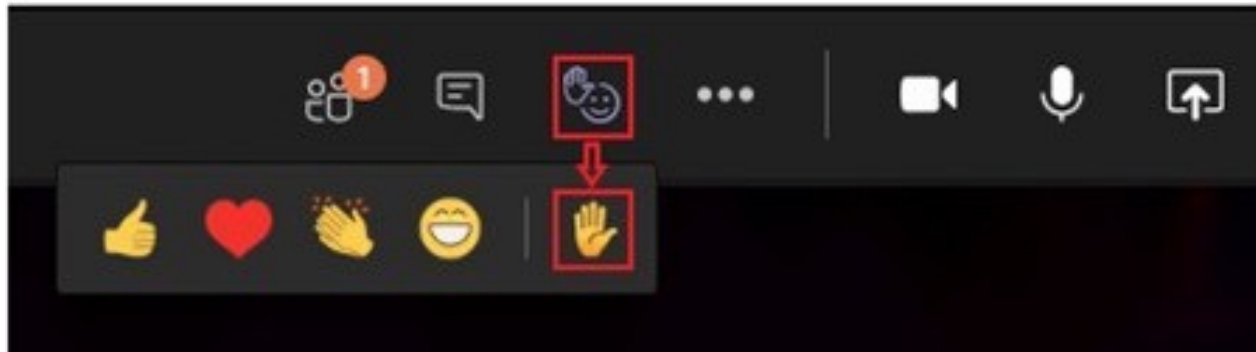
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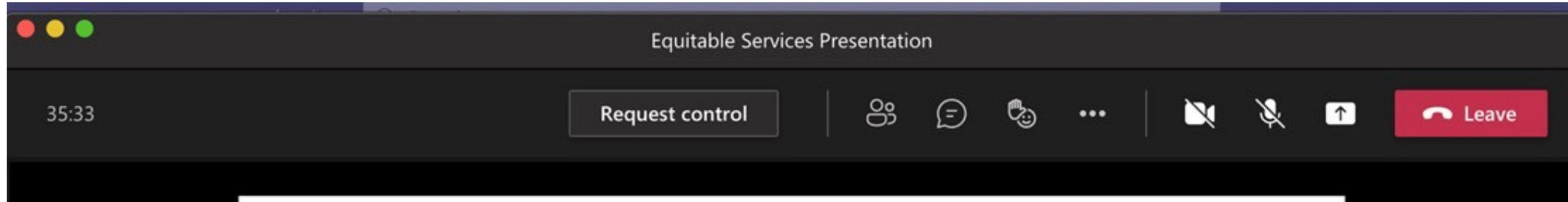
- Please mute yourself unless you have a question to reduce background noise
- Please cut the camera off to save bandwidth to reduce technical glitches
- Please ask questions throughout the presentation via chat or “raise hand” feature

## “Raise Hand” Feature

Just select **Show reactions** 🙌 in the meeting controls, and then choose **Raise your hand** 🙋 . Everyone in the meeting will see that you've got your hand up.



## "Chat" Feature



- To use the **chat** feature in Teams, simply click the “Chat” icon. The **chat box** will appear on the right. Type your message in the chat box and click the “Send” icon to send your question.

- This session will be recorded to increase availability and access to the technical assistance session.
- Recording will be available as a resource.
- Presentation and recording will be updated in MCAPS, MDE Document Library, Technical Assistance Sessions folder.



# Agenda

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Goal and Objective

- McKinney-Vento Overview
- Definition of Homeless
- Unaccompanied Youth vs. Unaccompanied “Homeless” Youth
- The Start of a New School Year (2022-2023)
- How to Identify Homeless Students
- Situations and Scenarios
- Funding
- Q/A

- The goal of this session is to provide technical assistance on McKinney Vento Homeless Education Program and how to successfully identify homeless students.
- The objective is to increase the identification of homeless students correctly by 75% for the 2022-2023 school year.



# McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Overview

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- The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the challenges that students **experiencing homelessness** face in **enrolling, attending, and succeeding** in school.
- The MS Department of Education (MDE) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same **free, appropriate public education**, including a **public preschool education**.
- Each LEA is required to have a designated **LEA Homeless Liaison** who is able to carry out the duties and responsibilities according to the Act.

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) defines homeless as follows:

The term “homeless children and youths”--

(A) Refers to individuals who lack a fixed, regular, **and** adequate nighttime residence; **and**

The term “homeless children and youths”--

(B)includes--

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;

- (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of Section 103(a)(2)(C));
- (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and



(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in Section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

\*Per Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, "awaiting foster care placement" was removed from the definition of homeless on December 10, 2016.

# Unaccompanied Youth vs. Unaccompanied “Homeless” Youth

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## Unaccompanied Youth

The term “unaccompanied youth” includes a child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. **An unaccompanied youth has a fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence,** which does not qualify him or her as “homeless” according to the McKinney-Vento Act.

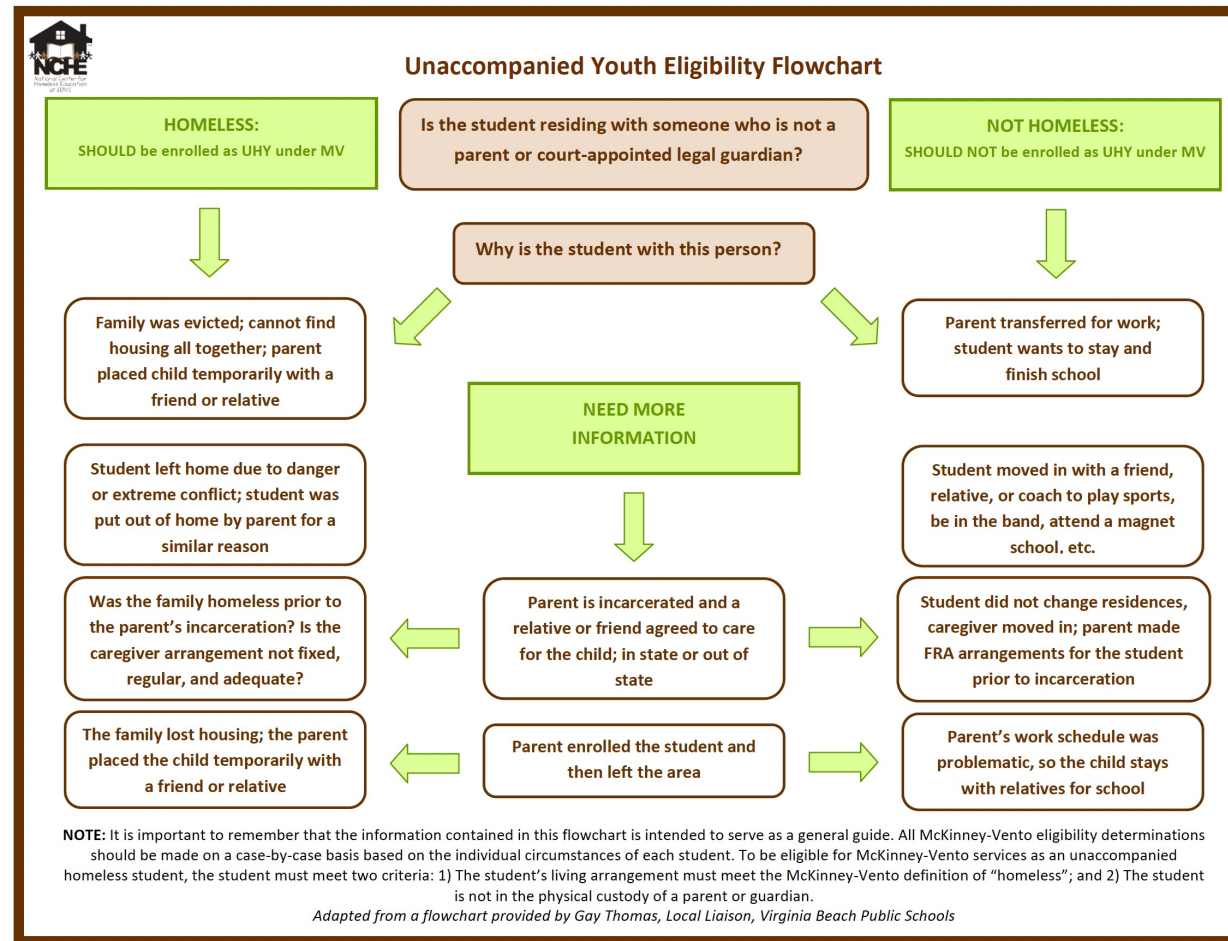
## Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An unaccompanied “homeless” youth includes a child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless and **is not in the physical custody of his or her parent.**



# Unaccompanied Youth vs. Unaccompanied “Homeless” Youth

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UHY Flowchart



# The Start of the New School Year

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Each LEA must adhere to the following at the start of a new school year:

- Become familiar with the McKinney-Vento Act and its terms.
- Reset all homeless data to “0” in all Student Administrative Packages (SAP) and Mississippi Student Information System(MSIS).



- Re-evaluate previous homeless students to determine eligibility for upcoming year. (Homeless status is not “guaranteed” from year to year.
- Connect with outside agencies in an effort to provide services to homeless students.

- Review District Dispute Resolution Process to ensure alignment with State Board Policy 40.1.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the McKinney-Vento program implementation (based on the previous year).
- Retain all documents pertaining to McKinney-Vento expenditures, communications, and transactions.



# How to Identify Homeless Students

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- Develop non-invasive processes for homeless families to submit information and meet with homeless personnel.
- Designate homeless contacts at various sites.
- Train district personnel (bus drivers, counselors, principals, office and cafeteria staff, teachers, truancy officers, and SRO's) on how to identify and serve homeless students.



- Inform the community on McKinney-Vento services and personnel, particularly the Homeless Liaison.
- Ensure enrollment/registration packets include a living conditions survey.

- Provide a platform for school personnel to discreetly submit information on possible homeless situations.
- Update district website that clearly identifies homeless services along with the Homeless Liaison.



# Situations and Scenarios

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“A student resided with grandparent who had legal custody of student but passed away this summer. Student now lives with another relative who does not have legal custody. The residence is fixed, adequate, and regular. The only issue is the relative does not have custody yet.”

\*Disclaimer: Each homeless situation is different and is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Based on the information provided, he would not be deemed homeless because he has a fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence. He would be an unaccompanied youth in this case.



“A 19-year old student originally from Louisiana moved to Mississippi with a friend. Growing up in a drug-infested environment along with low-performing schools, the student’s ambition is to graduate high school unlike either of his parents. The student’s parents still reside in Louisiana and refuse to assist him in any way, considering he is an adult in the state of Louisiana.”

The student should be enrolled as “**unaccompanied homeless youth**” because the McKinney-Vento Act is based on removing barriers to assist homeless students in obtaining an education. The McKinney-Vento Act includes no program-specific age requirements to qualify as an unaccompanied youth. Thus, if a child or youth is eligible for K-12 public education in the State, he or she may be enrolled and served as an unaccompanied youth. The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law, Miss Code Ann § 37-13-91, defines when a child is mandated to attend, not when a school is mandated to enroll.

“Our district would like some clarification as to whether these two situations meet the definition of homeless:

1. One family is building a home in our district. They have moved in with the grandparents who live in our district until the home is completed. Living with the grandparents is by choice. Do these students meet the definition of homeless?
2. A family had gone through a divorce. The mother and children moved in with someone who lives in our district by choice and will remain there until the mother can get a place of her own. Again, this is by choice. Do these children meet the definition of homeless?”



One question to ask in both situations, “Is it due to financial hardship or fleeing from a dangerous situation?”

**Scenario 1.** They appear to have a nighttime residence that is fixed, adequate, and regular. Would you agree?

**Scenario 2.** They appear to be doubled-up, which is a characteristic of McKinney-Vento’s definition of homeless.

“I had a child who tried to enroll yesterday. He is living with a family and requested to declare himself as an Unaccompanied Minor. My question is he has all the necessary paperwork to enroll, (birth certificate, SS card, etc.), but the family he is living with works in the district but lives outside the district. My question is, does the law that states a person working in the district can legally transfer their students into the district apply to this student who is living with them?”

The first question to ask is whether the child has a “fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence.” Because he is living with a family, he appears to not be homeless but an unaccompanied youth. An unaccompanied youth is not necessarily homeless. Enrollment of this student would be based on the district’s policy and not the McKinney-Vento Act.

# Funding Sources

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- An LEA may utilize the following funding source for McKinney Vento programs:
  - Title I Required Set Aside
  - ESSER I
  - ESSER II
  - ARP Homeless I (as applicable)
  - ARP Homeless II (as applicable)
  - McKinney-Vento Grant (as applicable)

# Questions





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