



McKinney-Vento 102: Support for School Success and Special Populations

National Center for
Homeless Education (NCHE)

(800) 308-2145

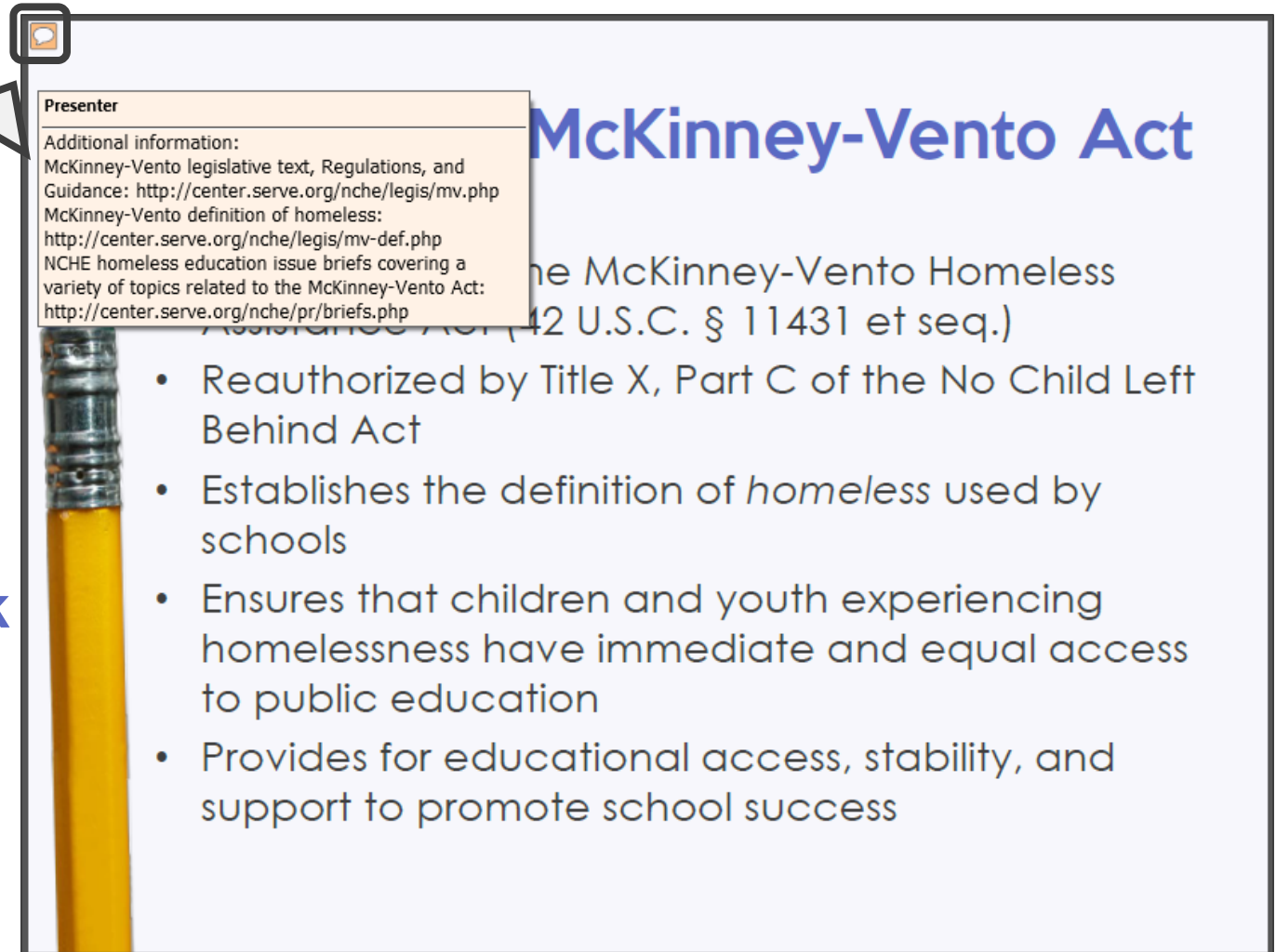
homeless@serve.org

Get to Know NCHE

- NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education's homeless education technical assistance and information center
- NCHE offers:
 - A comprehensive website: www.serve.org/nche
 - A toll-free helpline: Call 800-308-2145 or e-mail homeless@serve.org
 - A listserv: Visit www.serve.org/nche/listserv.php for subscription instructions
 - Free resources: Visit www.serve.org/nche/products.php

Additional Information Feature

**Hover
mouse or
double-click**



Presenter

Additional information:
McKinney-Vento legislative text, Regulations, and Guidance: <http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/mv.php>
McKinney-Vento definition of homeless: <http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/mv-def.php>
NCHE homeless education issue briefs covering a variety of topics related to the McKinney-Vento Act: <http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/briefs.php>

McKinney-Vento Act

the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.)

- Reauthorized by Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act
- Establishes the definition of *homeless* used by schools
- Ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness have immediate and equal access to public education
- Provides for educational access, stability, and support to promote school success

Today's Goals

- Become familiar with important homeless education concepts, including:
 - Support for school success available through other federal programs, including:
 - Title I, Part A
 - Special Education
 - Child Nutrition
 - Support for special populations, including:
 - Young homeless children
 - Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Engage in discussion and Q&A



Summary McKinney-Vento 101

- Introductory information regarding the McKinney-Vento Act
- The role of the local liaison
- Student eligibility
- School selection
- Enrollment
- Transportation
- Dispute resolution

Register for McKinney-Vento 101 and other webinars at www.serve.org/nche/web/group.php



The McKinney-Vento Act

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 - Provides for educational access, stability, and support to promote school success
 - Needed to address the unique barriers faced by many homeless students



Title I, Part A

- Title I, Part A (“Title I”) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq., 2001)
- Designed to:
 - Ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and to reach proficiency on state academic standards
 - Meet the educational needs of low-achieving children in schools with the highest levels of poverty





Title I Eligibility

- Homeless children and youth are:
 - Automatically eligible for Title I services, including services provided through schoolwide or targeted assistance programs
 - Eligible to receive Title I services for the remainder of any school year in which they become permanently housed
 - Eligible to receive Title I services, even if not attending a Title I school, through the Title I set-aside





The Title I, Part A Set-aside

- Districts must set aside funds to:
 - Serve homeless children not attending Title I schools
 - Provide services comparable to those provided to children attending Title I schools





Determining a Set-aside Amount

- Federal law does not mandate a particular method, allowing discretion at the district level
- The Title I director and local liaison should work together to determine the set-aside amount
- Districts may wish to conduct an annual assessment of the needs of homeless students; once student needs are identified, districts can determine the amount of funds needed to provide services





Determining a Set-aside Amount

- Additional strategies may include:
 - Determining a percentage of the district's Title I allocation
 - Multiplying the number of homeless students by the Title I per-pupil allocation
 - Matching the McKinney-Vento subgrant, if applicable
 - Adjusting previous set-aside amounts based on expenditures and trend data





Acceptable Usages of Set-Aside Funds

- Districts may use set-aside funds to provide educationally related support services to children in shelters and other locations
- Districts may provide homeless students with services that are greater in scope and intensity or different in nature than those provided to non-homeless students
- Funds must be used:
 - To provide services that are reasonable and necessary to assist students in taking advantage of educational opportunities
 - As a last resort when funds or services are not reasonably available from other sources





Acceptable Usages of Set-Aside Funds

- Partial list from ARRA Guidance:
 - Clothing/shoes (school uniform/dress code/gym uniform)
 - Fees to participate in the general education program
 - School supplies
 - Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school
 - Medical/dental services (glasses, hearing aids, immunizations)
 - Counseling for issues affecting learning
 - Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences
 - Extended learning time or tutoring support
 - Supporting parent involvement





Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015

- Signed into law on December 16, 2014
- Reauthorized policy changes from 2014 omnibus bill regarding serving homeless children and youth through Title I
 - Funds may be used to support the local liaison position
 - Funds may be used to provide school of origin transportation
- Governs the spending of FY2015 Title I dollars, and FY2013 and FY2014 Title I carryover funds





Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Primary piece of federal law related to the education of children and youth with disabilities
- Uses the McKinney-Vento definition of *homeless*
- Requires that homeless children and youth (birth through age 21) with disabilities be identified and evaluated for services (Child Find)
- Holds districts accountable for the prompt completion of evaluations if a student transfers districts during the evaluation process
- For students with a current IEP, requires districts to which the student transfers to provide comparable services immediately





Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- New district(same state) may adopt the previous IEP or develop a new IEP, in consultation with a parent
- New district (different state) may adopt the previous IEP, or conduct a new evaluation and develop a new IEP
- Establishes criteria and timelines for appointing surrogate or temporary surrogate parents for unaccompanied homeless youth





Child Nutrition Act

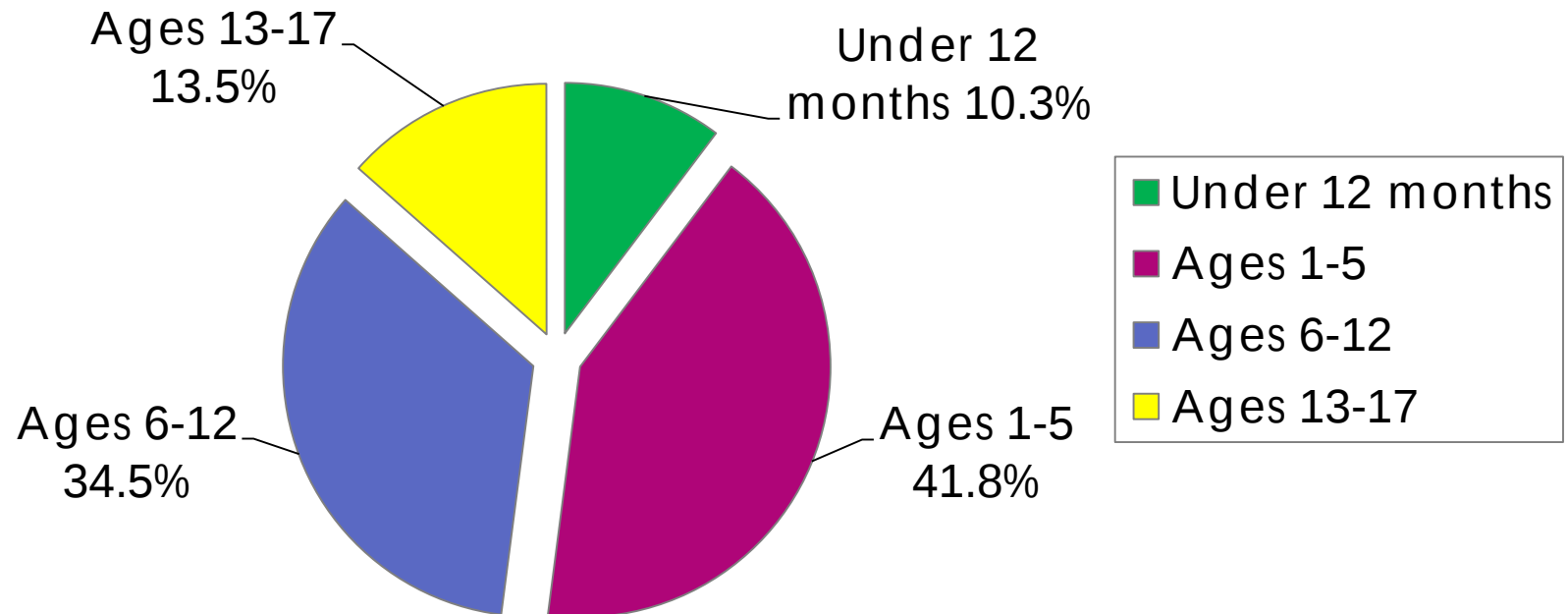
- Grants categorical eligibility for free school meals for homeless students
- Authorizes streamlined procedures for documenting eligibility
 - Homeless students do not need to fill out the standard household application
 - Homeless students can be certified directly for free school meals by a local liaison or shelter director
- Establishes eligibility for free school meals for the entire school year and up to 30 days into the new school year



Young Homeless Children

- In 2012, among people living in shelters as part of a family, more than 60% were children (under 18); of these:

Homeless Children Living in Shelters in 2012 by Age





Young Homeless Children

- The poverty, mobility, and unsafe living conditions that accompany homelessness subject young children to a steady barrage of stress during critical development years, resulting in higher than average rates of:
 - Food insecurity
 - Development delays/learning impairments
 - Acute and chronic health problems
 - Behavioral and emotional problems
 - Exposure to domestic violence





McKinney-Vento and Preschool

- States:
 - State plans must establish procedures that ensure that homeless children have equal access to public preschool programs administered by the State Education Agency (SEA)
 - State Coordinators must collaborate with other agencies and educators, including early childhood program personnel, to provide comprehensive education and related services to homeless children and their families
- Districts should familiarize themselves with state policy, as it may include important details about the provision of preschool services within the state





McKinney-Vento and Preschool

- Local liaisons:
 - must ensure that homeless children receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs, and preschool programs administered by the district
 - must provide homeless children with referrals to health care, dental, mental health, and other appropriate services





McKinney-Vento and Preschool

- To ensure the identification of homeless preschoolers, local liaisons should:
 - Work with school personnel, who can ask families enrolling school-age children whether there are preschool-age siblings
 - Collaborate with district special education personnel to identify young homeless children who may be in need of special education services





Head Start

- Head Start Act
 - Uses the McKinney-Vento definition of *homeless*
 - Establishes categorical Head Start eligibility for young homeless children
 - Requires Head Start personnel to collaborate with the local liaison and personnel of community programs serving homeless infants and toddlers to facilitate program coordination





HHS Implementation Guidance

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued implementation guidance on early care and education (ECE) services for homeless children
 - Applies to Head Start and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Programs
 - Recommendations include:
 - Prioritization of access to services for homeless families
 - Flexibility for homeless families regarding documentation requirements and immunization requirements
 - Coordination with State Coordinators and local liaisons





Resources in Your Community

- Local liaisons should be proactive in identifying local early childhood resources, including:
 - Public preschool providers (Head Start, Even Start, Migrant Education Even Start, etc.)
 - IDEA Part C programs
 - Federal and state programs serving homeless, low-income, or at-risk young children and their families (Child Care Development Fund [CCDF] programs; Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting [MIECHV] programs; etc.)



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- The poverty, mobility, and unsafe living conditions that accompany homelessness subject youth to a steady barrage of stress, often without the support of a caring adult, resulting in higher than average rates of:
 - Mental health and substance abuse issues
 - Criminal victimization, including rape and assault
 - Criminal activity related to survival
 - Pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease
 - Barriers to education and employment





Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- To be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY):
 1. The child's or youth's living arrangement must meet the Act's definition of *homeless*
 2. The child or youth must be considered unaccompanied, defined as “not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian”





Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- No McKinney-Vento-specific age limits; standard state age limits for eligibility for public education apply
- A youth can be eligible regardless of whether he or she was asked to leave the home or ran away
- Sometimes the parent/guardian/student may not reveal the full nature of what has brought about the separation



The School's Charge

- A school's primary responsibility is to enroll and educate, as directed by federal and state law
- As federal law, the McKinney-Vento Act supersedes conflicting state and local law
- Schools do not need to understand and/or agree with all aspects of what has occurred within the student's family





Strategies for Serving Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Develop alternative forms to replace typical proof of guardianship; ensure that forms do not create further barriers or delay enrollment; see Appendix 5A at www.serve.org/nche/pr/liaison_toolkit.php
- Local liaisons must assist UHY with school selection and dispute resolution
- Become familiar with relevant state and local policies: minor medical consent, reporting, etc.
- Be flexible with students and provide extra supports, as needed



NCHE *Homeless Liaison Toolkit*

- Comprehensive resource that will assist both new and veteran local liaisons
- Draws on the expertise of experienced practitioners
- Includes requirements of the law, good practices, sample forms, and links to resources
- Visit www.serve.org/nche/pr/liaison_toolkit.php

