Identification, Training and Outreach to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness

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Department of Public Instruction

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
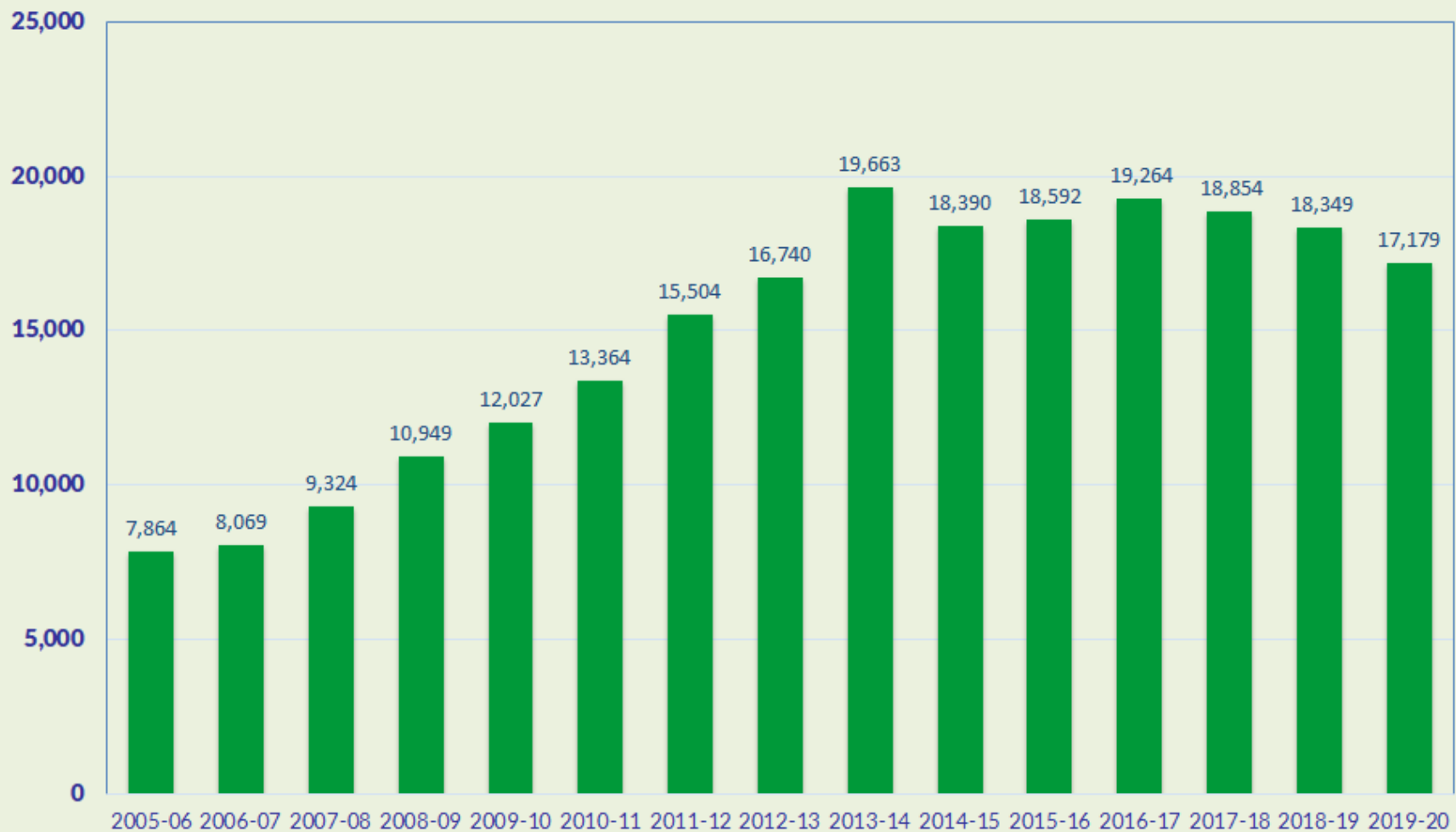Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

Using Microsoft Teams

- We will mute everyone while we are presenting, please do not unmute yourself.
- If you have a camera on your computer please turn off the video by clicking on the camera icon at the top of your screen. It should show a line through the camera.
- To be able to use the chat function, click on the chat bubble on your screen to have the chat pop up on the right side of the screen.
- You can enter full screen by clicking on the three dots and choosing Enter Full Screen.
- We are recording the webinar.
- Feel free to enter questions into the chat at any time. We will answer at the end as time allows.
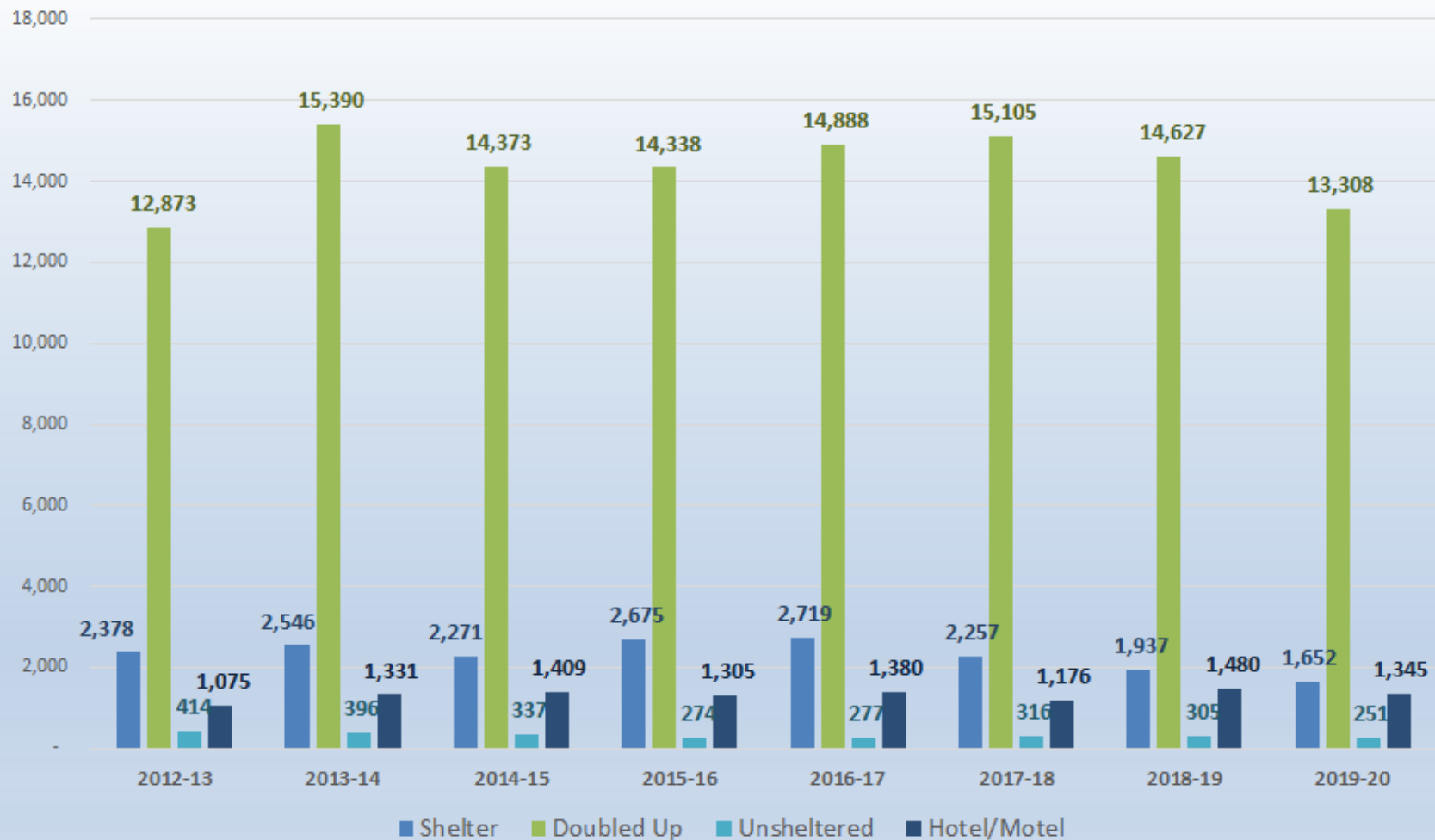
Learning Outcomes

- Understand McKinney-Vento requirements around identification and enrollment of students experiencing homelessness.

- Enhance understanding of the McKinney-Vento requirements around community coordination and collaboration.

- Enhance understanding of the McKinney-Vento requirements on training all staff in the district.

- Learn best practices from school districts across the state.

Homeless Student Enrollment in Wisconsin 2005-2020

Year	Enrollment
2005-06	7,864
2006-07	8,069
2007-08	9,324
2008-09	10,949
2009-10	12,027
2010-11	13,364
2011-12	15,504
2012-13	16,740
2013-14	19,663
2014-15	18,390
2015-16	18,592
2016-17	19,264
2017-18	18,854
2018-19	18,349
2019-20	17,179

Homeless Student Nighttime Residence Data 2012-2020

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Shelter	2,378	2,546	2,271	2,675	2,719	2,257	1,937	1,652
Doubled Up	12,873	15,390	14,373	14,338	14,888	15,105	14,627	13,308
Unsheltered	414	396	337	274	277	316	305	251
Hotel/Motel	1,075	1,331	1,409	1,305	1,380	1,176	1,480	1,345

Total Unaccompanied Youth Enrollment 2012-2020

Year	Enrollment
2012-13	2,078
2013-14	1,892
2014-15	1,891
2015-16	2,165
2016-17	2,283
2017-18	2,405
2018-19	2,286
2019-20	1,896

Homelessness Defined

Under McKinney-Vento, the term "homeless" children and youth means:

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

What exactly is a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence?

Fixed, Regular, and Adequate

- **Fixed:**
  - Stationary, permanent, not subject to change
- **Regular:**
  - Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis
  - Consider the relative permanence
- **Adequate:**
  - Lawfully and reasonably sufficient
  - Sufficient for meeting the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

Can the student go to the **SAME PLACE** (fixed) **EVERY NIGHT** (regular) to sleep in a **SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE** (adequate)?

Eligibility

- Sharing the housing of others <u>due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason</u> (sometimes referred to as doubled-up)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, campgrounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in a public or private place not designed for ordinary use as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans (cars, parks, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, etc.).
- Children from migratory families who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

Understanding Doubled Up

Sharing housing with others…
- due to loss of housing OR
- economic hardship OR
- similar reason
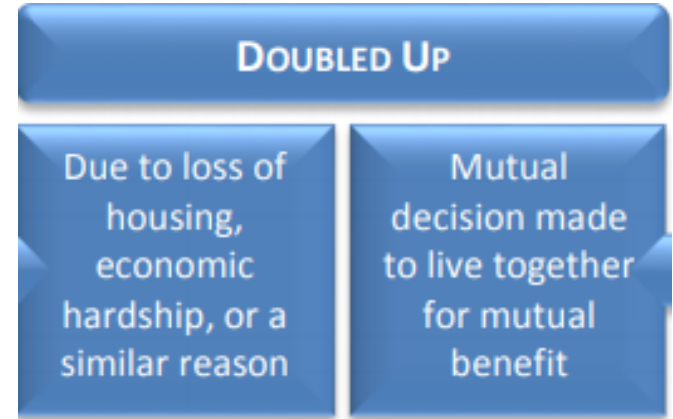
National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) Understanding Doubled Up Webinar

Sharing the Housing of Others

- Implies that the child or youth is staying in someone else's residence
- Clarifying questions:
  - Does the family or youth have any legal right to be in the home?
  - Can the family or youth be asked to leave at any time with no legal recourse?

Due to Loss of Housing

- Implies that the student has no personal housing available

- Clarifying questions: Did the family or youth lose previous housing due to:

  - An eviction or foreclosure?
  - Destruction of, or damage, to the previous home?
  - Unhealthy or unsafe conditions?
  - Domestic violence?
  - Abuse or neglect?
  - The absence of a parent or guardian due to abandonment, parental incarceration, or a similar reason?

Due to Economic Hardship

- Implies that limited financial resources have forced the family or youth to leave the personal residence and share housing due to an inability to pay the rent/mortgage and other bills

- Clarifying question:

  - Did economic hardship due to an accident or illness, loss of employment, loss of public benefits, or a similar reason force the family or youth to share the housing of others temporarily?

Hotels/Motels

HOTELS, MOTELS, TRAILER PARKS, CAMPGROUNDS

Due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations

Due to family choice; e.g., when a permanently housed parent accepts a new job and the family stays temporarily in a hotel, RV, etc. until they obtain new, permanent housing

Transitional Living Programs

- Not all are automatically McKinney-Vento eligible situations

- Has to be time limited, with case management and a housing subsidy

How do I know?

Ask questions!

[Sample Questions for Information Gathering](#)

[Flow Chart](#)

Identification Strategies

- Avoid using the word "homeless" with school personnel, families, or youth.

- Make special efforts to identify preschool children, including asking about siblings of school-aged children.

- Use enrollment forms to inquire about living situations.

  http://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/forms

School of Origin and Residence

- School of origin: school that child or youth attended when last permanently housed or the school they were last enrolled.

- School of residence: school in the local attendance area where the child or youth is staying.

School Enrollment

When remaining in the school of origin is not in the student's best interest, or what the parent, guardian, or youth requests:

Students eligible under McKinney-Vento are entitled to immediate enrollment in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, even if:

- Students do not have required documents, such as school records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, guardianship, or other documents; or
- Students have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

Enrollment of Unaccompanied Youth

- Immediate enrollment applies, even without parent or guardian.

  - Youth self-enrollment; caregiver forms

  - [Resources](#)

- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, give priority to the youth's wishes, and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights.

Enrollment in Preschool

- Liaisons must ensure access to Head Start, early intervention [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C], and other preschool programs administered by the LEA.

- Preschools are included in the school of origin definition.

Preschool Enrollment— Strategies

- Facilitate enrollment: include homelessness in needs assessments and priorities; put families eligible under McKinney-Vento at the top of waiting lists; provide enrollment forms on-site at shelters and motels.

- Expedite records by working together: joint release forms; share records within a family.

- Develop joint/streamlined procedures and forms: joint intake forms; provide uninterrupted services as children move.

- Work with families and providers to meet school of origin and comparable transportation requirements appropriately for young children.

Identification and Enrollment Strategies from Districts

- Surveys, questionnaires to families
- Home visits
- Family check ins via zoom, Google Meet, Google chat
- Facebook, Social Media
- Partnering with community agencies, local shelters
  - Building awareness of identification, not just services like transportation
- Monitoring attendance
- Staff PD (specifically about Doubled Up)
- Counselors connecting with students virtually
- Connect with local places families frequent

Community Coordination and Collaboration

Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to parents and guardians of homeless children and youth, and unaccompanied youth.

[DPI Resources](#)

Community Coordination and Collaboration Strategies

- Post outreach materials and posters in all schools, and where there is a frequent influx of low-income families and youth in high-risk situations, including: motels, campgrounds, libraries, health centers, and youth services.

  https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/

- Coordinate with community service agencies such as shelters, soup kitchens, law enforcement, legal aid, public assistance and housing agencies, mental health agencies and public health departments.

- Coordinate with youth-serving agencies such as drop-in centers, street outreach, child welfare, juvenile courts, teen parent programs, and LGBTQ youth organizations.

Whitewater Unified School District

Mary Geraghty

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Whitewater Community Partners/Resources

Staff Training

- Homeless liaisons are responsible to train all staff in the district on understanding McKinney-Vento, procedures to refer students to the homeless liaison, and rights and services under McKinney-Vento

- Training must happen annually

- School personnel (administrators, teachers, attendance officers, enrollment personnel) must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.

- Mode of training is at the discretion of the district

DPI Training Resources

Staff Training Strategies

- Provide awareness activities for school staff (registrars, secretaries, counselors, nurses, teachers, tutors, bus drivers, security officers, dropout prevention specialists, attendance officers, administrators, etc.).
    - https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/webinars/upcoming-webinars/
    - https://nche.ed.gov/web/online_tr.php
- Cross-train preschool, school, and service providers.

Madison Metropolitan School District

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MMSD: Staff/Schools Training

POC's: In MMSD we have Point of Contact in each of our buildings and programs. These POC's are usually the first contacts and ongoing support for the students and families in MMSD who are experiencing homelessness. Verification is often followed though by our POC's.

School/Staff training: POC's are responsible for the McKinney Vento training of staff - School Training information and links here is the information, lesson plan and video we share with them to support them in this training. Along with the link we always offer to assist and be apart of the training in whatever way we can.

District wide training: Mobility Class - district (and community wide) offering. 6 weeks of education, w awareness and projects that directly impact and support our students and families experiencing homelessness. There is no cost to the class except for the participants time and their commitment to a project. Grad credit, CEU's, MMSD PAC's, Child Care credits are offered if desired.

Staff Only Site - TEP Binder (specific to MMSD)
        TEP district Guidance   UY guidance
     Trafficking guidance   4K best practices
     TEP forms and internal documents stored here

Favorite All staff tools

Key Elements and Potential Warning Signs: 1 page Handout that summaries the McKinney Vento Law and shares warning signs of homelessness with a few questions that may help with follow up questions.

Making Choices: Hands on activity looking at the choices a family has to make as life situations change
Game Board

Making Choices: virtual version

What Is My Day is Like: a quiz used to look at the differences in the life of children in the same classroom. How poverty, homelessness, divorces, out of home care change the options a child has.

Videos: We often use short videos to set the stage for the discussion here are 3 of our most used videos.
Through the Eyes of Homeless Children - How children think, feel, experience homelessness
Not Homeless Enough - Dane County families talking about self paying and Doubled up
My Own 4 Walls - Children and students talking about homleessness

Poetry: We often share the words from one of our students,families,youth to help start our Trainings.
BEAR   My Superpower is Invisibility
That is How It Is   For Too Long

Resources

Sample enrollment forms on the DPI "Example Forms" webpage

https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/forms

Forms for District Internal Recordkeeping Purposes

Homeless Student Identification Form for local use 📄
(Fillable PDF) Homeless Student Identification Form for local use 📄

Identification and Transportation for Students 📄
Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District

Family Data Sheet 📄
Ashwaubenon School District

Self-identification forms (for use during enrollment with families/students)

Families in Transition Questionnaire - English 📄 and Spanish 📄
Racine Unified School District

Eligibility Form/Residency Questionnaire 📄
Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District

McKinney-Vento Voluntary Survey 📄
Montello School District

Identification Resources

[NCHE Determining Eligibility Brief](#)

[NCHE Confirming Eligibility Brief](#)

Contact Us

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Please complete our [evaluation](#)!