Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness During the COVID-19 Crisis

National Overview and Washington State Case Study

May 14, 2020
### Research grounding

#### Pre-COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>Washington</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 1.5 million K-12 students identified as experiencing homelessness</td>
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<td>• An additional 1.4 million children under the age of six</td>
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<td>• National high school graduation rate is 67.8%, almost 12% below other low-income students (79.5%)</td>
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<td>• Harmful impact on achievement persists after housed</td>
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<td>• Lack of a high school degree/GED is single greatest risk factor associated with homelessness as young adult</td>
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<td>• 40,000+ students experiencing homelessness</td>
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<td>• 6 out of 10 are students of color</td>
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<td>• Rates are highest in rural areas</td>
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<td>• Suspended 2.5 more often than their housed peers</td>
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<td>• Graduation rates are improving and gap is narrowing</td>
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Source: [Schoolhouse Washington](schoolhouseconnection.org)
What is Homelessness for Public Schools?

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- **Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care**
- **Doubled-up (e.g. staying with other people temporarily)**
- **Unsheltered (e.g. cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned building)**
- **Hotels/Motels**

**Unaccompanied youth**: a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

**Same definition**: K-12 Public Schools, Higher Education Act, Head Start, Child Care

**Fluid**: Children and Youth move between situations
Existing Infrastructure and Educational Protections

**National**

- McKinney-Vento Act
  - Liaisons in every LEA; State Coordinator in every SEA
  - Identification/Outreach
  - School Stability/Transportation
  - Immediate Enrollment
  - PreK + College Transition

- Other Protections:
  - Title I Part A
  - IDEA
  - Head Start
  - CCDF
  - Higher Education Act
  - ESSA

**Washington**

- McKinney-Vento funding
- Homeless Student Stability Program
- Office of Homeless Youth (Department of Commerce)
- Schoolhouse Promise and Menu of Strategies
- Project Education Impact

schoolhouseconnection.org | schoolhousewa.org | buildingchanges.org
COVID-19 Impact

- **Initial survey** of LEAs, early learning, service providers; repeat every two weeks
- **Challenges:**
  - Mobility (communication)
  - Basic needs (health, food, shelter)
  - Safety
  - Distance Learning
  - Identifying those who become homeless after school closures
- Biweekly "live" virtual chat
- **FAQ**, local best practices, and tools to replicate

**National**

- Remote learning since mid-March
- No state education agency guidance
- Mandated district surveys
- Building Changes conducts McKinney-Vento Liaison statewide survey
- Building Changes convenes School/Housing Network

**Washington**

- Building Changes conducts McKinney-Vento Liaison statewide survey
- Building Changes convenes School/Housing Network
Panelists

Liza Burell | Building Changes

Daniel Zavala | Building Changes

Barbara Duffield | Schoolhouse Connection
Short-term response

**Federal Funding**
- Unlike previous emergency supplementals, the CARES Act authorizes, but does not require, use of funds for homeless students

**CARES 2.0 advocacy and mobilization**
- Dedicated McKinney-Vento funding
- Family Stabilization Fund within the Administration for Children and Families
- Higher education: outreach, assistance with FAFSA, SNAP
- Economic Stimulus payments
- Eviction prevention/rental assistance

**Washington State Student and Youth Homelessness COVID-19 Response Fund**
- Letter to Governor Inslee and Superintendent Reykdal
- Mobilizing public support with call-to-action, coalition building, and media
Adapting our long-term efforts

- Increase visibility of a hidden student population
- Equip schools as "command centers"
- New forms of outreach, identification, stability
- Tools for equity in distance-hybrid learning
- Defend existing protections (rights, funding, data transparency, etc.)
- Mobilize and inform state-level advocacy
- Education Leads Home – State Initiatives + Data-to-Action, National Convening

Budget cuts
- Decrease or change in home visits and outreach
- Increase school/housing partnerships
- Adopt short term changes as permanent policy
  - Expanding services to all HUD-eligible categories
- Tailor educational services for remote learning
- Expand social emotional and trauma-informed practices
Supporting the ecosystem

- Co-sign advocacy letters and efforts
- Regional-based approach
- Talk to school-based staff, including liaisons
- Support nonprofits and intermediaries with flexible emergency funding
- Support local and state advocacy
Questions?
For more information, contact:

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Federal Protections: Existing Infrastructure and Educational Rights

M-V Enacted:
- State Coordinators
- Remove Barriers
- $4.6 million

- Liaisons in subgrants
- Anti-segregation policy

IDEA reauthorization

Child Care and Development Block Grant reauthorization

1987

1994

1990

2001

2004

2007

2014

2015

- Local grants
- Permits liaison

NCLB amendments to M-V
- Liaison in all LEAs
- Immediate enrollment
- School of Origin
- Transportation
- $70 million

Head Start Act
Higher Education Act (FAFSA)

ESSA amendments to M-V:
- Liaison able to carry out duties
- School of origin includes PreK
- Credit accrual, counselors
- Liaisons must help with FAFSA
- $85 million

Higher Education Act (FAFSA)

Child Care and Development Block Grant reauthorization

IDEA reauthorization

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Liaisons in subgrants
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