

OSPI Homeless Education McKinney-Vento Annual Fall Training 2025-2026

Day 2

Contents

Notes.....	2
Glossary of Acronyms and Key Definitions.....	3
Cover Slide: Day 2	4
Slide 2: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Vision, Mission, and Values.....	4
Slide 3: OSPI Equity Statement	5
Slide 4: Meet the Team	5
Slide 5: Two-Day Agenda.....	6
Slide 6: Day One Review.....	6
Slide 7: Understanding the McKinney-Vento Act.....	7
Slide 8: Defining Homelessness.....	7
Slide 9: 10 Liaison Duties	8
Slide 10: Defining “Unaccompanied Homeless Youth”	8
Slide 11: Update Your Contact Information.....	9
Slide 12: Posters and Brochures	9
Slide 13: Transportation Review.....	10
Slide 14: Transportation for Extracurricular Activities	10
Slide 15: Transportation Considerations.....	11
Slide 16: Transportation Funding Considerations	11
Slide 17: Let’s Get Real with Scenarios!	12
Slide 18: Scenario #1	12
Slide 19: Scenario #2	13
Slide 20: Scenario #3	13

Slide 21: Scenario #4	14
Slide 22: Scenario #5	14
Slide 23: Scenario #6	15
Slide 24: Scenario #7	15
Slide 25: Scenario #8	16
Slide 26: Example Timeline.....	16
Slide 27: Reflection: Intentions for 2025-26	17
Slide 28: How Can We Improve?	17
Slide 29: Wrapping Up.....	18
Slide 30: Connect with the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	18

Notes

- Breaks, Welcome Activity, Zoom Controls, and Question/Answer slides are removed from this version of the training slide deck.
- Learn more about the OSPI Office of Homeless Youth and access resources on our webpage: [Students Experiencing Homelessness](https://ospi.k12.wa.us). Visit the agency website to learn more about our work. <https://ospi.k12.wa.us>.

Glossary of Acronyms and Key Definitions

- **LEA**–Local Educational Agency.
- **McKinney-Vento Act**–A federal law giving PreK-12 students experiencing homelessness the right to important educational services to remove barriers to education by providing immediate enrollment and access to educational services, including transportation to and from school/extracurricular activities, service referrals, and more.
- **McKinney-Vento Liaison**–Assigned by the school district superintendent to implement the McKinney-Vento Act by completing ten required duties, or provisions, of the law.
- **NAEHCY**–National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.
- **NCHE**–National Center for Homeless Education.
- **OSPI**–Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction–Washington’s State Educational Agency .
- **Provisions**–Requirements of the law.
- **SEA**–State Educational Agency.
- **SEL**–Social-Emotional Learning–A process through which individuals build awareness and skills in managing emotions, setting goals, establishing relationships, and making responsible decisions that support success in school and in life–[OSPI–SEL](#).
- **SHC**–SchoolHouse Connection–A national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness through early care and education.
- **STEC**–State Tribal Education Compact Schools–Included as school districts or LEAs in this presentation.
- **Trauma-Informed**–A trauma-informed child and family service system responds to the impact of traumatic stress on children, caregivers, and service providers–[OSPI–Trauma-Informed SEL](#).
- **UHY**–Unaccompanied Homeless Youth–Youth who qualify as both Unaccompanied and as meeting the definition of homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. Applies to any age of student eligible for educational supports under McKinney-Vento.

Cover Slide: Day 2

McKinney-Vento Annual Fall Training 2025-2026 Day 2

Elizabeth Schmitz, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Trainer Program Supervisor



Student and Special Programs Division/McKinney-Vento 10/13/2025 1

Slide 2: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Vision, Mission, and Values



Vision

All students prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

Mission

Transform K–12 education to a system that is centered on closing opportunity gaps and is characterized by high expectations for all students and educators. We achieve this by developing equity-based policies and supports that empower educators, families, and communities.

Values

- Ensuring Equity
- Collaboration and Service
- Achieving Excellence through Continuous Improvement
- Focus on the Whole Child



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Slide 3: OSPI Equity Statement



Each student, family, and community possesses strengths and cultural knowledge that benefits their peers, educators, and schools.

Ensuring educational equity:

- Goes beyond equality; it requires education leaders to examine the ways current policies and practices result in disparate outcomes for our students of color, students living in poverty, students receiving special education and English Learner services, students who identify as LGBTQ+, and highly mobile student populations.
- Requires education leaders to develop an understanding of historical contexts; engage students, families, and community representatives as partners in decision-making; and actively dismantle systemic barriers, replacing them with policies and practices that ensure all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Slide 4: Meet the Team

Meet the Team



**Keith
Woodruff**
McKinney-
Vento
Program
Supervisor
Lead



**Jill
Kawulok**
Homeless
Children and
Youth
Grants/EGMS
Program
Supervisor



**Vivian
Rogers
Decker**
Homeless
Student
Stability
Education
Program
Supervisor



**Elizabeth
Schmitz**
McKinney-
Vento
Homeless
Education
Trainer
Program
Supervisor



**Lydia
Lemon**
Homeless
Education
Administrative
Assistant



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Student & Special Programs Division 10/13/2025 4

Slide 5: Two-Day Agenda

Plan: Annual Two-Day Fall Training

Day 1

- Welcome
- McKinney-Vento overview
- Break
- Liaison duties
- Strategies
- Funding

Day 2

- Day 1 review
- Scenarios
- Discussion
- Closing

Slide 6: Day One Review

Day 1 Review

- Understanding the McKinney-Vento Act.
- The role and responsibilities of school district McKinney-Vento liaisons.
- Strategies for success.
- Allowable uses of funding.

Slide 7: Understanding the McKinney-Vento Act

Understanding the McKinney-Vento Act

- The law requires states and school districts to **remove barriers** to the **identification, enrollment, stability, and success** of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Review

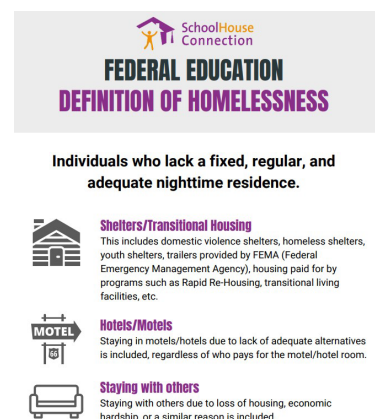
Respond to one of these prompts in the chat:

- What did you learn yesterday about the barriers youth face when they experience homelessness?
- What solutions might remove barriers to identifying and enrolling students for services though the McKinney-Vento Act?

Slide 8: Defining Homelessness

Defining "Homelessness"

- [Download the SchoolHouse Connection's "Federal Education Definition of Homelessness" poster.](#)



- [Download "Federal Education Definition of Homelessness"—SHC poster.](#)

Slide 9: 10 Liaison Duties

10 Liaison Duties

- i. Identify homeless children and youth through outreach and coordination.
- ii. Enroll and offer them a full and equal opportunity to succeed in that local LEA.
- iii. Homeless children and youth have access to and receive educational services.
- iv. Homeless children and youth receive referrals to health care, dental, other services.
- v. Inform parents and guardians and provide them with opportunities to participate.
- vi. Provide public notice.
- vii. Mediate disputes.
- viii. Provide transportation services.
- ix. Complete professional development.
- x. Support unaccompanied youth.

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(a)

[The Ten Legal Duties of the Homeless Liaison-SHC.](#)



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

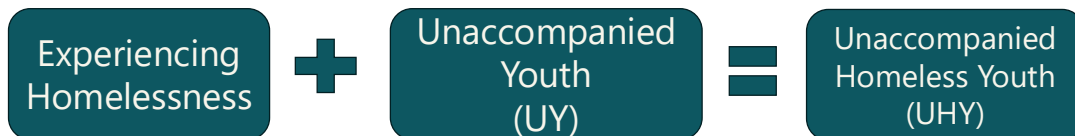
OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 9

- [The Ten Legal Duties of the Homeless Liaison-SHC.](#)

Slide 10: Defining “Unaccompanied Homeless Youth”

Defining “Unaccompanied Homeless Youth”

- “An Unaccompanied Youth (UY) is a child or youth not in the physical custody of (not living with) a parent or guardian.”
42 U.S.C. 11434(a)(6)
- To qualify for services through McKinney-Vento, the youth **must** also meet the definition of homelessness.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 10

Slide 11: Update Your Contact Information

Update Your Contact Information

Action Item:

- Have you updated your school district's **McKinney-Vento Liaison Contact Information** on the OSPI Website?
- [Homeless Education Liaison Contact List–OSPI.](#)



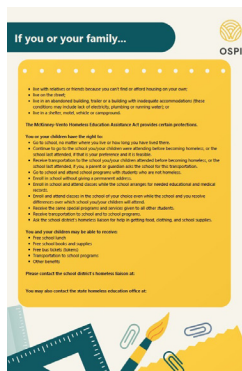
Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 11

- [Homeless Education Liaison Contact List–OSPI.](#)

Slide 12: Posters and Brochures

Posters and Brochures



Action Item:

- Order OSPI posters and brochures for public posting.
- [Poster and Brochures–OSPI.](#)
- [McKinney-Vento Poster and Brochure Order Form–OSPI.](#)
- Note: when adding the contact information for the state homeless education office, please use HomelessEd@k12.wa.us and 360-725-6505.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 12

- [Poster and Brochures–OSPI.](#)
- [McKinney-Vento Poster and Brochure Order Form–OSPI.](#)
- Note: when adding the contact information for the state homeless education office, please use HomelessEd@k12.wa.us and 360-725-6505.

Slide 13: Transportation Review

Transportation Review

- LEAs must provide students experiencing homelessness **with transportation to and from their school of origin**, at a parent or guardian's request.
- For an **unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness**, the request would come from the LEA's McKinney-Vento liaison.



Slide 14: Transportation for Extracurricular Activities

Transportation for Extracurricular Activities

- LEAs must provide or arrange transportation to and from **extracurricular activities if a lack of transportation would be a barrier to “participating fully in school activities.”**
- This transportation may be arranged by the district, or by a program other than student transportation.



Slide 15: Transportation Considerations

Transportation Considerations

- Provide **sensitivity training** to bus drivers and any transportation staff or contractors.
- Arrange bus stops to **keep student living situations confidential**.
- **Build close ties** between school district homeless liaisons, school staff, and student transportation staff.

Slide 16: Transportation Funding Considerations

Transportation Funding Considerations

- Negotiate [Transportation Agreements](#) now.
- If student's school is **outside their current school district**:
 - The two districts involved **must work together to apportion the cost and responsibility** of the service.
 - If they cannot agree, the two districts are to split the cost equally.

- [Transportation Agreements](#)

Slide 17: Let's Get Real with Scenarios!

Let's Get Real!

Directions:



1. Listen to the scenario.



Refer to the "Scenarios" (sent prior to training) if needed.



2. Brainstorm answers to the questions (1 minute).



3. Respond to the poll.



4. Large group discussion.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 17

Slide 18: Scenario #1

Scenario #1

The Smith Family:

- A family who has never attended or been enrolled in the district and who does not live in the attendance area wants to enroll.

Questions:

- **Does this family have a right to choose where to enroll?** Why or why not?
- What next step(s) would you take in this scenario? Explain.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 18

Slide 19: Scenario #2

Scenario #2



Christina:

- An unaccompanied youth (UY) wants to enroll in the district.
- The UY has no paperwork at all but lives in your attendance area.

Questions:

- **Do you enroll the student?**
- Why or why not?
- What next step(s) would you take in this scenario? Explain.

Slide 20: Scenario #3

Scenario #3



Liam:

- The district has a bus that a student can use to travel to and from his home.
- Liam is McKinney-Vento eligible.
- Liam's mother prefers mileage reimbursement.

Questions:

1. **Is the district required to change the method of transportation?**
2. Why or why not?
3. What next step(s) would you take in this scenario?

Slide 21: Scenario #4

Scenario #4



Aurora:

- A student in foster care.
- Ran away from the foster home.
- Is doubled-up with friends.

Questions:

- **Is Aurora McKinney-Vento eligible?**
- Why or why not?
- What next step(s) would you take after determining if the student is or is not eligible?



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 21

Slide 22: Scenario #5

Scenario #5:



Noah:

- A student entering school for the first time (Kindergarten) has older siblings that attend a school in the district.
- They all live out of district but are qualified as McKinney-Vento eligible.

Questions:

- **Does Noah have a right to enroll in the district where the older siblings attend?**
- Why or why not?
- Would Noah have access to transportation support through McKinney-Vento?



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 22

Slide 23: Scenario #6

Scenario #6



The Rose Family:

- A family experiencing homelessness.
- Has a daycare out of district.

Questions:

- **Are districts required to provide transportation to daycare in this scenario?**
- Why or why not?
- What next step(s) would you take in this scenario? Explain.

Slide 24: Scenario #7

Scenario #7



Elijah:

- The mother and father of a student are divorced.
- The father is experiencing homelessness, but the mother is housed.
- The student spends time with both.

Questions:

- **Is Elijah McKinney-Vento eligible?**
- Why or why not?
- What would you do next after deciding on eligibility in this scenario?

Slide 25: Scenario #8

Scenario #8



Lyle:

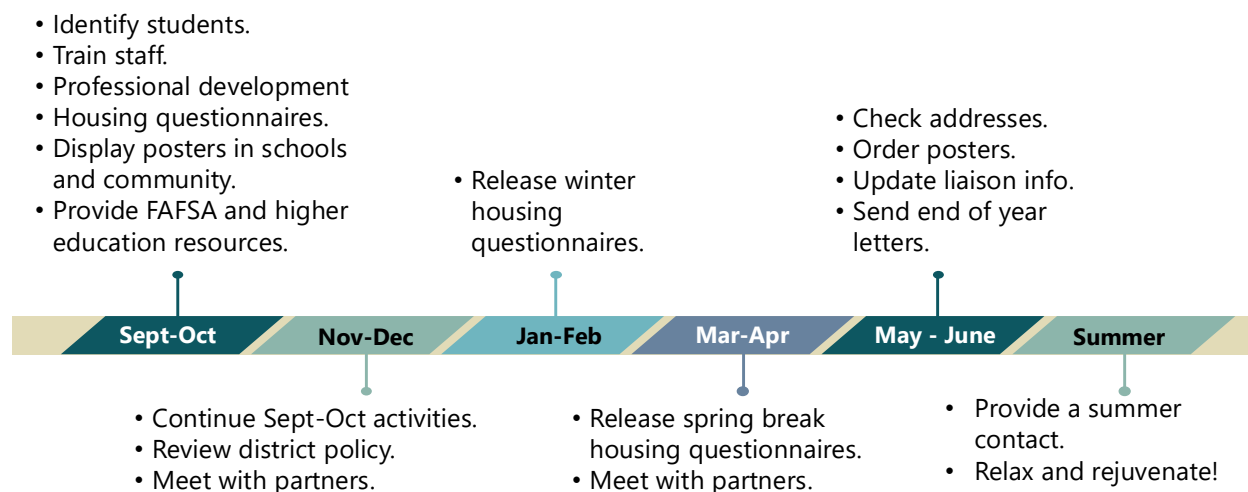
- Fourth-grade student at City Elementary School.
- Mom moving out of town during surgery rehabilitation.
- Requests a McKinney-Vento designation to assist with district transportation while staying with family friends outside of the district boundary.

Questions:

- What questions should the liaison ask the mom before determining whether Lyle is experiencing homelessness under the Act?
- **Is Lyle experiencing homelessness or not?**
- What led you to your answer?
- What do *you* believe is in Lyle's best interest?
- What services and support(s) can the district provide?
- What are the responsibilities of the neighboring district, if any?

Slide 26: Example Timeline

Example Timeline



Slide 27: Reflection: Intentions for 2025-26

Reflection: Intentions for 2025-2026

Reflection Prompts:

1. What will you immediately put into practice?
2. How can OSPI support you?
3. Who is in your support network this year?
4. List established or potential partners, for example, mentors and organizations.

Activity:

1. 2-minute personal reflection and writing time.
2. Respond to one or more of the 4 reflection prompts.
3. When prompted, share a response in the chat.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 27

Slide 28: How Can We Improve?

How Can We Improve?

- What did we miss?
- Please share your suggestions for improvements or future webinar topics.
- Drop your questions, ideas, or comments in the chat, or email them to elizabeth.schmitz@k12.wa.us.
- We want to continuously improve!



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 28

Slide 29: Wrapping Up

Wrapping Up

- **Everyone's biggest resource is YOU!**
 - Share your knowledge and ask each other questions.
 - Get to know your surrounding districts and your peers.
 - Use the [Liaison Contact List](#) to expand your network.
 - Join us for Office Hours!
 - [Email the McKinney-Vento inbox](#) for the fastest response from the Homeless Education Team.
- **Fill your cup!** Take care of you. You can't help others if you are not taken care of. **Self-care is important!**
- **Thank you** for serving Washington's students!



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSSI/McKinney-Vento | 11/5/2025 | 29

Slide 30: Connect with the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Connect with us!



ospi.k12.wa.us



youtube.com/waospi



instagram.com/waospi



twitter.com/waospi



facebook.com/waospi



linkedin.com/company/waospi