

Data Collection: Homeless Students

Action Required for Data Collection

The federal McKinney-Vento Act (42 USC CHAPTER 119, SUBCHAPTER VI, Part B: Education for Homeless Children and Youths) requires that all school districts identify, enroll, and serve children and youths living in homeless situations. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required to annually collect and report district-level data regarding homeless children and youths enrolled in public schools. The deadline for districts to review and submit any changes to their 2026-27 homeless student data is **October 31**.

Instructions

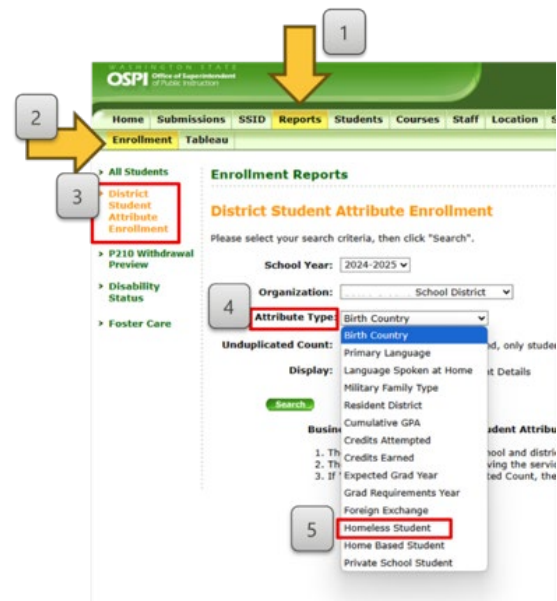
To review data for students meeting the definition of homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act in the Comprehensive Education Data and Research System (CEDARS), follow the steps below.

1. Select the "Reports" tab.
2. Select the "Enrollment" tab.
3. On the Enrollment page, select "District Student Attribute Enrollment" from the options on the left side of the page.
4. On the District Student Attribute Enrollment page, find the "Attribute Type" pull down menu.
5. From the menu, select "Homeless Student".

Districts will also need to review data for students that are identified as Unaccompanied Youth.

Students who are unaccompanied may, or may not, also be experiencing homelessness. To review this data measure in CEDARS, and follow the steps below:

1. Select the "Reports" tab.
2. Select the "Attributes and Programs" tab.
3. Select "Dynamic Attribute and Program Report" from the options on the left side of the page.



4. On the District Student Attribute Enrollment page, select the correct School Year and district name. Under "Attribute or Program", select "24 – Unaccompanied Youth".
5. Select "Yes" for Unduplicated Count, and "Student Details" for Display.

The screenshot shows the 'Attributes and Programs Reports' page. A yellow arrow labeled '1' points to the 'Reports' tab in the top navigation bar. A yellow arrow labeled '2' points to the 'Dynamic Attribute and Program Report' link. A red box labeled '3' highlights the 'Dynamic Attribute and Program Report' link. A red box labeled '4' highlights the 'School Year' dropdown menu, which is set to '2024-2025'. A red box labeled '5' highlights the 'Attribute or Program' dropdown menu, which is set to '24 - Unaccompanied Youth'. Below this, the 'Unduplicated Count' is set to 'Yes' (indicated by a red box), and the 'Display' options are set to 'Student Details' (indicated by a red box).

Key Dates

- **Submission deadline:** October 31

Additional Information

To avoid identification and reporting errors, it is imperative that district staff members are familiar with the broad definition of homelessness as it is clearly outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act. All students meeting the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, regardless of whether they received specialized district services, must be identified and counted. Please refer to [Identification of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#) for detailed information on the identification of children and youth who meet the federal definition of homeless according to the McKinney-Vento Act.

These are available in the [Education Data System](#) (EDS). To access, staff must be assigned the appropriate user role by their local District Data Security Manager (DDSM).

For McKinney-Vento grantee districts, OSPI is also in contact about grant reporting requirements.

How OSPI Uses the Data

The federal government requires the Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youths established in each state to collect and transmit data in a report containing information necessary to assess the educational needs of homeless children and youths within the state. These are reported to the federal government through EDFacts, where it is publicly posted for accountability and transparency. Data are also published on the [Washington State Report Card](#).

Resources

- [CEDARS](#)
- [Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Contacts

- Student Engagement & Special Programs/Homeless Education – HomelessEd@k12.wa.us

- Technical assistance with EDS: OSPI EDS Support – EDS.Support@k12.wa.us
- CEDARS – AskSI@k12.wa.us