

Maine Department of
Education
McKinney Vento

Amelia Lyons

State Homeless Coordinator / Migrant
Education Director

Maine Department of Education





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- Recognize when a child may be eligible under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act
- Know how to contact the local district liaison
- Know what rights these students have
- Be able to share with families about their rights
- Know who to contact if you hit a dead end

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

Defines homeless

Requires local McKinney-Vento liaison in each district

Requires state coordinator

Explains rights of homeless students in education

Neo Dashboard

PUBLIC

[Certification Application Lookup](#)

[Contact Search \(formerly Superintendent Search\)](#)

[Graduation Rates & Dropout Rates Data](#)

[Home Instruction](#)

[MeDOE on Maine.gov](#)

[P100](#)



TRANSPORTATION

[Bus Purchase Approvals](#)

[ED546 School Transportation Expenditures And School Bus Inventory Report \(2014\)](#)

neo.maine.gov

- Every school district has a designated McKinney-Vento Liaison who is tasked with identifying and serving homeless children and youth

Contact Search

Superintendents

[By Name](#)

Search for

[By SAU](#)

Search for

[By Town](#)

Search for

SAU Primary Contacts

[By SAU](#)

Search on

[By Primary Contact Type](#)



Search on

Primary Contacts

Select Primary Contact Type

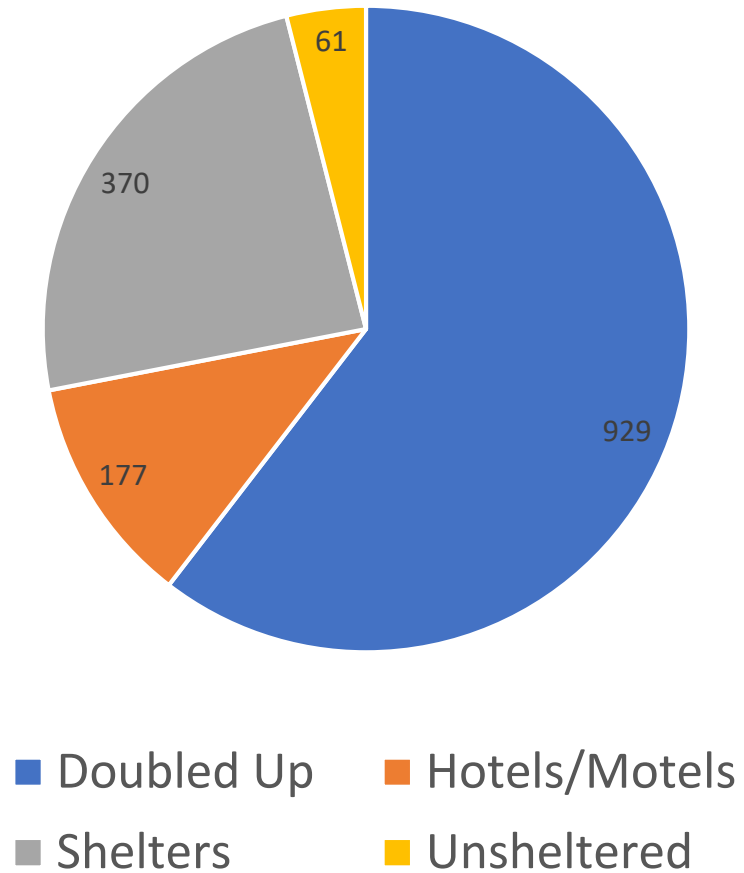


State Homeless Education Coordinator

- Supports local liaisons by providing technical assistance about State and Federal policies
- Manages the subgrant process for districts who receive McKinney-Vento funding
- Maine's State Coordinator is available to assist you with any questions you may have:
 - [Amelia Lyons](#)
 - Amelia.lyons@maine.gov
 - 207-557-1787
 - Maine DOE's website for Homeless Education can be found [here](#)



Identified Homeless Students in
Maine 2020



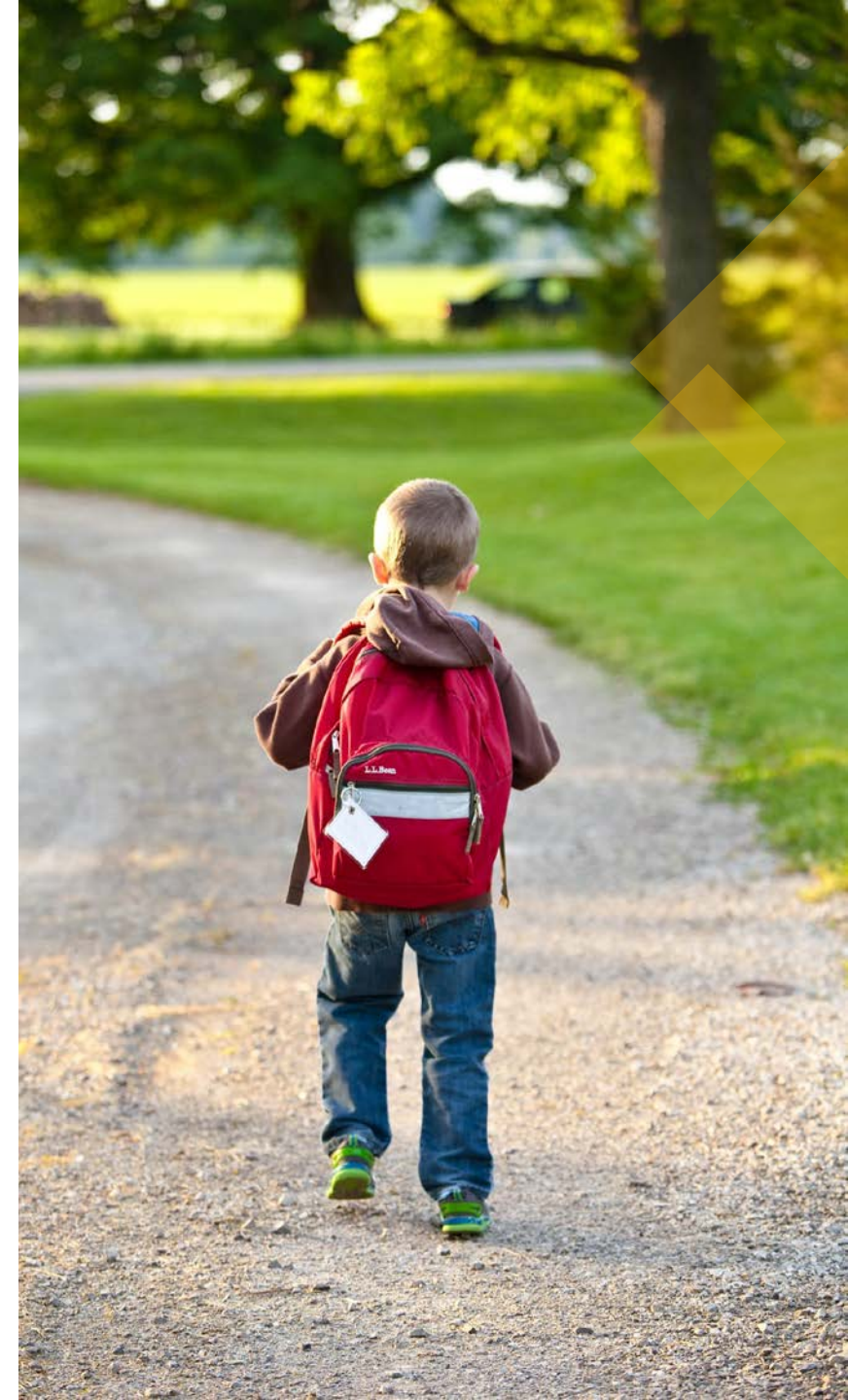
Student Homelessness in Maine

- State average over the past 10 years, 1587 homeless students identified
- **Ranging between .46 % – 1.36% of student population**
- **National averages assume homeless students make up at least 3% of entire student population**
- **Maine is very likely UNDER identifying students who qualify as McKinney-Vento**

Definition of Homeless Under McKinney-Vento Act

- Homelessness is defined as lacking a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence. Situations specifically described in the McKinney-Vento Act include
 - sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason,
 - living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of adequate housing,
 - living in emergency or transitional housing,
 - or children abandoned at hospitals.

It also includes a primary nighttime residence that is not designed for or ordinarily used as a sleeping accommodation for humans, living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, and migratory children living in one of the circumstances described previously.



Definitions

- If a housing situation does not clearly fall under one of the categories provided in the definition of homelessness provided in the law, you should **ask yourself if the student can go to the same place every night to sleep in a safe and sufficient space**. If the answer is no, the student likely meets the criteria of lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and should be considered homeless.
- Homelessness must be documented each school year, but **a child is eligible for MV services through the academic year**, even if they become stably housed part way through the year
- If you believe you know a student who may qualify, connect with your district McKinney-Vento Liaison to determine next steps.



Rights of McKinney-Vento Students

- Help families and youth experiencing homelessness connect to resources at school and exercise their right to an education. Public schools are required to identify, enroll, and serve homeless children and youth. Specific rights include:
 - Staying in the same school even if they move, and receiving transportation to that school, as long as it is in the student's best interest
 - Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually require
 - Receiving free school meals
 - Getting help with school supplies and other needs
 - Connecting young children with early childhood services
 - Families have a right to dispute resolution if they disagree with the determination
 - Right to confidentiality

Liaisons Support Students With

Identification

- Complete annual training
- Train essential staff
- Determine eligibility

Best Interest Determination

- Remain in school of origin with transportation
OR
- Immediately enroll in school of residence

Support

- Free Meals
- School supplies
- Confidentiality
- Referrals

Dispute

- Support family with dispute resolution process if necessary

“If runaway youth would just follow their parents’ rules, they could live at home; why should we encourage their bad behavior?”

- Most runaway youth, especially those who stay away from home a significant length of time, have fled abusive homes for their own survival. **Studies of unaccompanied youth have found that 20 to 50 percent were sexually abused in their homes, while 40 to 60 percent were physically abused.** Severe dysfunction in the home is also common. Thirty percent of callers to the National Runaway Switchboard identified negative family dynamics as the leading reason for leaving home.
- For example, **over two-thirds of unaccompanied youth surveyed in a recent study reported that at least one parent abused drugs or alcohol**
- Many young people are not welcome in their parents’ or guardians’ homes due to their sexual orientation or identity, pregnancy, or other types of family conflict.
- **20 to 40% of homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, questioning and/or transgender**

continued

10% of currently homeless female teenagers are pregnant

More than half of youth living on the streets became homeless for the first time because they were asked to leave home by a parent or caregiver. Youth often leave home to remove themselves from an immediately painful situation, but without plans for what to do next.

In a recent survey of unaccompanied homeless youth in California, **over half felt that being homeless was as safe as or safer than being at home. More than 60% of homeless youth report being raped, beaten, robbed or otherwise assaulted while living on the streets, and homelessness is the largest risk factor for commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors.**

Reminders

Families who qualify are entitled to this program and the support it entails

The law is written to consider the best interest of the student, NOT the feasibility for the district (cost, availability of vehicles, etc.)

If you are struggling to connect with a liaison or district, reach out to the State Coordinator, Amelia Lyons

Thank you!

Amelia Lyons

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207-557-1787

