

Washington County School Districts' McKinney-Vento Program



Homeless Education Network (HEN)

McKinney-Vento Program

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of students experiencing housing instability.



Any child experiencing housing instability qualifies for McKinney-Vento services

Support may include:

- Immediate school enrollment
- Transportation to school
- Ability to remain at the same school for the entire year
- Community resources

Who is eligible for McKinney-Vento Services?

Children who lack a *fixed, regular and adequate* nighttime residence are eligible for McKinney-Vento Services.

This often looks like:

- **Sharing the housing** of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in **motels or hotels**.
- Living in emergency or transitional **shelters**.
- Living in an **unsheltered** situation such as public or private place not designed for humans to live, camping, in a car, etc.
- Living in substandard housing: lack of access to electricity/heat/water/plumbing, excessive mold, vermin infestation, overcrowding

Available services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act:

- Immediate enrollment in school.
- Removing barriers to school enrollment, attendance and participation.
- Free School Meals and fee waivers for sports or school activities.
- Transportation support to and from school.
- Assistance obtaining documents that have been lost: birth certificates, immunization records, etc.
- Community based referrals to social services.

Who is currently qualified for McKinney-Vento services?

School District	Doubled Up	Shelter	Motel or Hotel	Unsheltered	Total
Banks	9	0	1	0	10
Beaverton	789	70	75	167	1101
Forest Grove	26	7	5	14	52
Gaston	0	0	0	0	0
Hillsboro	315	30	16	22	383
Sherwood	26	0	0	0	26
Tigard/Tualatin					

* School districts start collecting this data at the beginning of the school year. These numbers are cumulative and increase throughout the school year. Data collection stops at the end of the school year.

Unaccompanied Houseless Youth (UHY)

Unaccompanied students face unique challenges:

- Not living with a parent or legal guardian can create a barrier to school enrollment and participation.
- Limited access to social services: Medical, mental health, SNAP, legal documents.

How we help:

- Remove barriers to school enrollment and participation.
- Provide meal benefits and transportation.
- Provide FAFSA/ORSAA verification of unaccompanied status.
- Partner with community based organizations like Home Plate Youth Services, Safe Place for Youth, and Second Home.

School District	Unaccompanied Houseless Youth
Banks	0
Beaverton	124
Forest Grove	11
Gaston	0
Hillsboro	71
Sherwood	3
Tigard/Tualatin	

Trends and Challenges

- McKinney-Vento is commonly mistaken for a housing program
- We are seeing more referrals, higher than pre-pandemic numbers.
- More evictions, sometimes causing families to separate (students housed with friends/parents unhoused).
- More families having to stay in their car.
- More families in substandard housing: doubled up situations have been prolonged due to COVID and this has caused homes to become substandard.
- Unaccompanied youth are having to work to help support the household
- 3 fires this school year in Beaverton have displaced about 15 families.
- Refugee and immigrant families continue moving to our community into temporary housing situations.

Trends and Challenges

- Transportation: all districts continue to experience a shortage in bus drivers.
- Unaccompanied youth being displaced due to host families no longer being able to support them
- Rental assistance in the county is very difficult to find or connect to. Our most common resources are consistently running out of funds. Communication gap navigating rental assistance.
- Staffing Changes in social service agencies has made it more difficult to provide a direct point of contact to clients.
- Used to take 4-6 weeks to get into shelter, now it is taking at least 2 months.
- There are no *immediate* shelter options for children and families in Washington County.

What is going well

- Funding that has supported school and community partners has increased post pandemic.
- School districts have hired more liaisons to support McKinney-Vento children birth through graduation from high school.
- Feedback from families has been positive. They feel connected to liaisons and services despite impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Through collaboration with partner agencies we have been able to increase access and available support services.

How can you help?

- Join us at one of our Homeless Education Network (HEN) monthly meetings to share about how your program could support our students/families. Reach out to [David Pero](#) (HEN representative to HSSN board) for the invite.
- Refer children experiencing housing instability to their McKinney-Vento school liaison.
- Our programs provide essential items and resources to students. If you know of anyone interested in donating, please share our information.
- Advocate for policy/legislation to increase shelter and housing resources for families and youth:

[Take Action to Increase Funding Support for Homeless Children and Youth](#)

Contact Information

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ~ WASHINGTON COUNTY

McKinney-Vento Program

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of students experiencing housing instability.



Any child experiencing housing instability qualifies for McKinney-Vento services

Support may include:

- Immediate school enrollment
- Transportation to school
- Ability to remain at the same school for the entire year
- Community resources

Contact a school district's McKinney-Vento team for support:

Beaverton School District

Sara Palestino : 503-356-5072

Leticia Flores : 503-356-5075

Bianka Castañeda Loredo : 503-356-5074

Anne Carlson : 503-356-5071

mvp@beaverton.k12.or.us

Sherwood School District

Maria Quinones : 503-825-5085

mquinones@sherwood.k12.or.us

Banks School District

Leann Gallien : 503-324-5151

leanng@banks.k12.or.us

Gaston School District

Carolyn Lowry 503-985-7516

loweryc@gastonk12.org

Hillsboro School District

Courtney Gibb ; Abel García Gómez

503-844-1753 (English)

503-844-1556 (Spanish)

mckinneyvento@hsd.k12.or.us

Forest Grove School District

David Pero : 503-359-2432 x3531

dpero@fgsd.k12.or.us

Tigard-Tualatin School District

Heidi Reang ; 503-431-4144

hreang@ttsd.k12.or.us



Flyer