



**WEYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Strong Schools  Strong Community

# McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act: Services and Supports in Weymouth Public Schools

April 9, 2015

# Overview

- Key Components of McKinney-Vento
- Homeless Students in Massachusetts
- District Homeless Statistics
- McKinney-Vento Transportation
- McKinney-Vento Grant Support
- Outreach
- Advocacy



# Purpose

- The goal of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is to ensure that each homeless child or youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.



# Homeless Liaison

- The McKinney-Vento Act requires every school district to designate a staff person to serve as the Homeless Education Liaison whose role it is to assist homeless students enroll in school and to ensure that they receive the educational services for which they are eligible.



# Homeless Defined

- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has adopted Section 725(2) of Act regarding the definition of homeless children and youth:
- *individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...*



# Residence Defined

- According to McKinney-Vento, a **fixed residence** is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change. A **regular residence** is one which is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis. An **adequate residence** is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments. Therefore, **children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate residence will be considered homeless.**



# Homeless Students, as defined:

- Children and youth who are **sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;**
- Children and youth who have a **primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation** for human beings;
- Children and youth who are **living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;**
- **Migratory children** (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above; and
- **Unaccompanied youth** a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

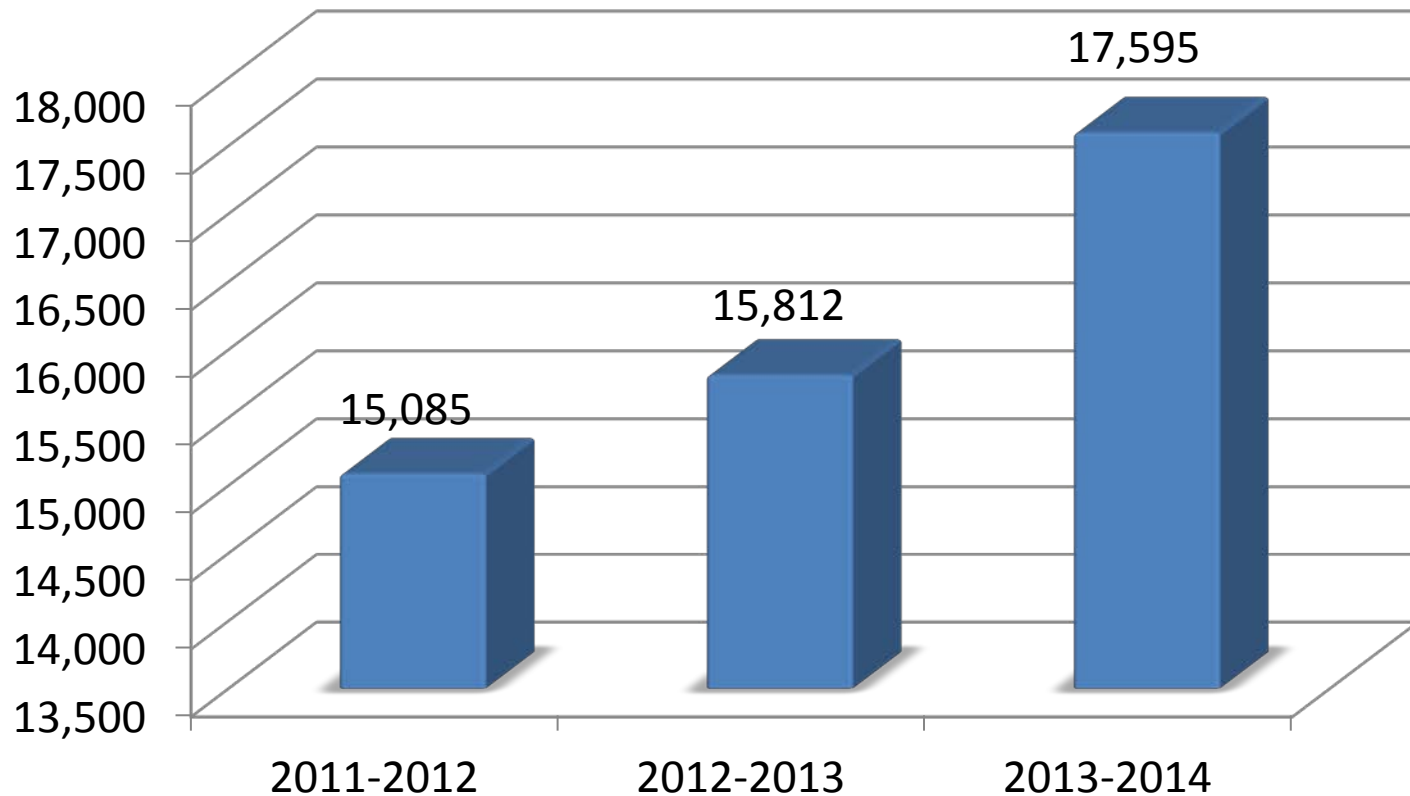




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## Total Number of Homeless Students Statewide





# District Homeless Statistics

## 2014-2015 Academic Year:

WPS provides services under McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Act to **234 students**.

- Currently, **143 students enrolled in WPS** are homeless
- Additionally, **91 students** are transported to their school of origin.

## 2013-2014 Academic Year:

WPS provides services under McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Act to **222 students**.

- **160 students enrolled in WPS** were homeless
- Additionally, **62 students** were transported to their school of origin.

## 2012-2013 Academic Year:

WPS provided services under McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Act to **172 students**.



# Homeless Students Breakdown by Category

<u>Category:</u>	<u>District (14/15)</u>	<u>State (13/14)</u>
• Doubled-Up	50%	39%
• Hotels/Motels	20%	21%
• Shelters	20%	23%
• Awaiting Foster Care	8%	11%
• Unaccompanied Youth/ Unsheltered	2%	6%



# Homeless Students Breakdown by Grade Level

<b><u>Grade Level:</u></b>	<b><u>District (14/15)</u></b>	<b><u>State (13/14)</u></b>
Grades PreK-4	48%	47%
Grades 5-8	28%	27%
Grades 9-12	24%	26%



# Homeless Transportation

- **Total number** of homeless students being transported by WPS: **98**
- Number of homeless students **living in Weymouth transported to a school district outside of Weymouth: 58**
- Number of homeless students **living outside of Weymouth transport into WPS: 33**



# School Districts That WPS Transports Homeless Students To: (11)

- Boston
  - Charlestown
  - Brighton
  - Dorchester
  - Hyde Park
  - Jamaica Plain
  - Mattapan
  - Roxbury
- Braintree
- Bridgewater
- Brockton
- Durfee
- Everett
- Fall River
- Lincoln
- Newton
- Swansea



# **School Districts WPS Homeless Students Are Transports From: (15)**

- Braintree
- Bridgewater
- Boston
  - Dorchester
  - Roxbury
- Brockton
- Dedham
- Everett
- Fall River
- Hanover
- New Bedford
- Norwell
- Quincy
- Randolph
- Rockland
- Swansea
- Taunton



# Homeless Transportation Expenses

- FY15 – **\$178,300.00** paid to date
- FY14 – **\$342,676.58**
- FY13 - **\$182,003.50**
  
- In FY14 WPS received a homeless transportation reimbursement for the FY13 expenses in the amount of **\$148,688.00**.



# McKinney-Vento Grant Parent/Student Support

- FY 2014/15- \$20,000 Allocation
- 1 yr. grant (previously 3 yr. grant)
- The purpose of these federal funds is to provide funding for programs that ensure homeless students enroll in school, attend school, and have the opportunity to succeed in school.
- Funds cannot be used for transportation (<10%)





# Outreach Efforts

- Motel Shelters Providers Network
- Resource Fair at Weymouth Super 8
  - (WIC, For Families, QCAP, Manet Healthcare, UMASS Extension, JECC, BPS, etc.)
- Collaboration with Boston Public Schools
- Collaboration with School on Wheels
- Collaboration with Shelter Sites
- Collaboration with State Agencies



# Advocacy for Homeless Students

- Share McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison's contact information
- National Center for Homeless Education,  
[www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/haa/>
- The Official Website of the Governor of  
Massachusetts: Charlie Baker  
<http://www.mass.gov/governor/>

