CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Alliance District Convening

Educating and Supporting Students in Homeless Situations

January 27, 2016

Test Your Knowledge

- Barriers
- Caregiver
- Categorically
- Certificate
- Collaborations
- College
- Disasters
- Extra-curricular
- FERPA
- Foster

- Homeless
- Immunizations
- Liaison
- McKinney-Vento
- Migratory
- Ombudsperson
- Origin
- Preschool
- Records
- Residency

- Resolution
- Set-aside
- Shelter
- Toolkit
- Training
- Transportation
- Unaccompanied
- Uniforms

Student mobility

- "Student mobility" refers to the phenomenon of students changing schools for reasons other than grade promotion.

- Students who transfer frequently between schools during the school year are at greater risk for academic and behavioral problems (Hartman, 2002).

Student mobility

- Never Mobile – small rural school districts, private schools, charter schools.
- Natural Mobility – elementary to middle school to high school.
- Semi Mobile – natural mobility combined with planned movement.
- Highly Mobile - migrant workers, military and immigrant families, families experiencing domestic violence, unstable work and home situations (high poverty).

Student mobility

- The potential impact of mobility on students' education is significant.

- Students who move often between schools may experience a range of challenges such as:

  - lower achievement levels,

  - behavioral problems,

  - difficulty developing peer relationships, and

  - a greater risk for dropping out.

Our Focus today …

- Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act.

- Determining Homelessness – examples

- Methodology of identification

Causes of Homelessness

- Lack of affordable housing
  - Foreclosures and evictions
- Poverty
  - Economic recession
  - Unemployment
- Health problems
- Lack of health insurance
- Addiction disorders, Mental health
- Domestic violence
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse/neglect/family dysfunction (unaccompanied youth)

Scale of Homelessness

Nationally:

- 600,000 families with 1.35 million children experience homelessness.

- Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, making up about 50 percent of the homeless population.

- Estimates include 550,000 youth and young adults up to age 24 living on their own; 380,000 of those youth are under the age of 18.

Scale of Homelessness

- Last year in Connecticut:
  - 1145 families, including 2071 children, served by emergency shelters.
  - 3,192 school-aged children/youth were identified/enrolled in school. (8% increase)
  - 90 youth identified as unaccompanied and homeless.
  - All current data under-represent youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

CSDE

Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

- Lack of awareness; under-identification
- High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and educational continuity
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- Prejudice and misunderstanding
- Enrollment requirements (school records, health records, proof of residence and guardianship)
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Reauthorized ESSA – December 2015
- Main themes:
  - Identification
  - School stability
  - School access
  - Support for academic success
  - Child-centered, best interest decision making

Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—
  - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters

Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—
  - Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
  - Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
  - Migratory children living in above circumstances
  - Awaiting foster care placement

McKinney-Vento Identification

- School districts must:

  - appoint a local homeless education liaison;

    - Ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel.

    - Ensure that they receive the services and supports to enroll and succeed in school.

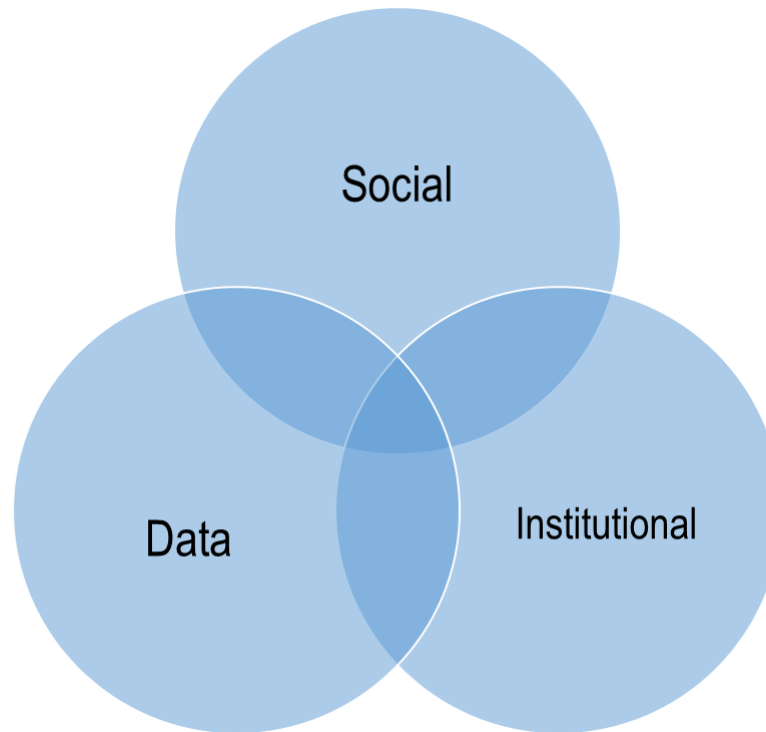   - Ensure public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is publically disseminated.
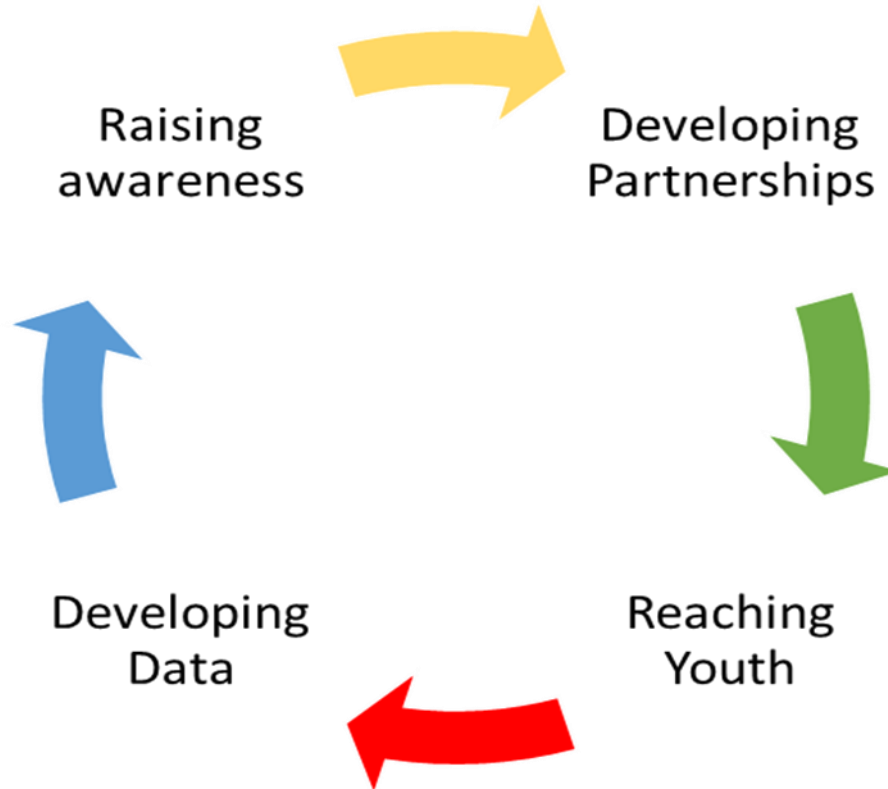
Student
Success

Supports and
services

Identification

Strategies for Identifying

Strategies for Identifying

Raising awareness → Developing Partnerships → Reaching Youth → Developing Data → (back to Raising awareness)

Using Data

- Is our school district identifying all students who are experiencing homelessness in the community?

- How does the number of homeless students identified compare to other data sources?

- Are there current trends in this data for the number of homeless students identified?

- What does student achievement data reveal to address learning challenges and academic needs?

Current Data

Start with examining local PSIS data on students currently identified homelessness.

- Determine if data is clean and accurate.
- Possible errors to examine:
  - ✓ Not reporting <u>any</u> homeless students
  - ✓ Not reporting <u>any</u> homeless students as unaccompanied youth
  - ✓ Reporting <u>all</u> homeless students as unaccompanied youth
  - ✓ Not reporting homeless students as eligible for free meals/milk (concurrent)

CT PSIS – Homeless Indicators

Code	Description
00 or Blank	Not homeless
01	Shelters - Children and youth who are living in homeless shelters, emergency shelters, transitional shelters or similar settings and are in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
02	Doubled up - Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason and are in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
03	Unsheltered - Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings and are in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
04	Hotel/Motel - Children and youth who are living in motels, hotels, or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations and are in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
11	Shelters/Unaccompanied Youth - Children and youth who are living in homeless shelters, emergency shelters, transitional shelters or similar settings and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
12	Doubled up/ Unaccompanied Youth - Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian..
13	Unsheltered/Unaccompanied Youth - Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
14	Hotel/Motel/Unaccompanied Youth - Children and youth who are living in motels, hotels, or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Comparing Data

- Hunger, poverty, unemployment, foreclosures
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov
  - Kids Count: datacenter.kidscount.org
  - Conference of Mayors: usmayors.org/publications
- Grants & local programs
  - Which do you have?
  - What outcomes do they report?

Examining Trends

- Increases/decreases among:
  - Statewide
  - DRG
  - Regional
  - Neighbors

Analyzing Student Achievement

- Demographics: student population, participation, attendance, students with disabilities, etc.

- Student learning: standardized assessment data, retention/promotion, graduation.

- Behavior: office disciplinary referrals, suspensions, and alternative education program.

How to use data

- Performance data provides an indication of how districts are serving homeless children.
- Achievement data for students who are homeless can be used to influence policies and programs.
- Achievement data, along with other data, should be used to determine the effectiveness of programs/services supporting students experiencing homelessness.

What does any student needs to be successful?

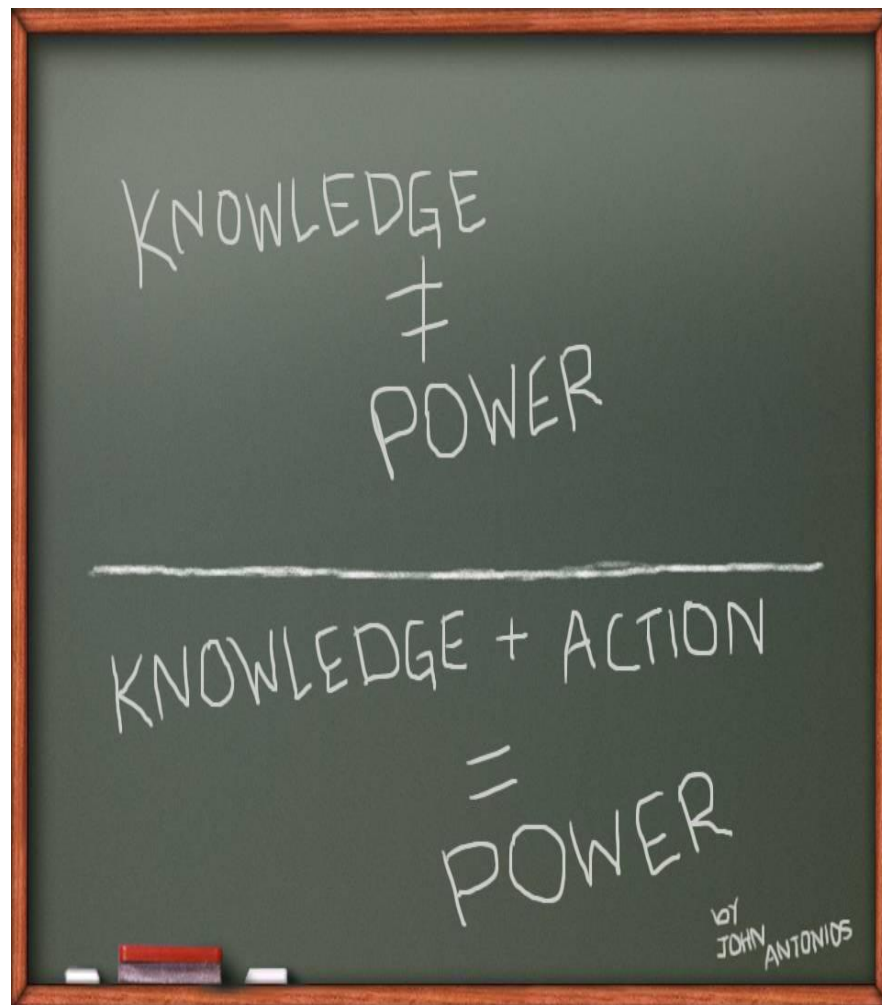# What does any student needs to be successful?

- Food

- Clothing

- Healthcare

- Academic and Emotional Support

- Safety/Shelter

Building an Effective Strategy to Serve Homeless Students

Educate

- Yourself
- Your District
- Your Community
- Families/students

Building an Effective Strategy to Serve Homeless Students

Get support

– School board, Administrators, Principals, Counselors, Nurses, PTA, Enrollment personal

- District Professional Development

- School Board meetings

- PTA meetings

- Principal meetings

- Develop MV enrollment guide for secretaries

Building an Effective Strategy to Serve Homeless Students

Outreach to families & students

- Posters http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/er_poster.php#parent

- Brochures and Flyers of McKinney-Vento Rights

- Information about community resources

- Partner with community service provides to participate in fairs and events

- Back to School Nights and Family Nights

- Student assemblies

- Partnering with youth

Building an Effective Strategy to Serve Homeless Students

Align existing school district resources

- McKinney-Vento Subgrant

- School Nutrition

- Special Education-IDEA

- Title I, Part A

- Transportation

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Building an Effective Strategy to Serve Homeless Students

Connect with resources in local community

- Shelter Providers

- Faith-based organizations

- Community Agencies

- Continuum of Care and Coordinated Access Networks

- Civic Organizations

- Local Health and Mental Health Care

- Home Visiting Programs

Building an Effective Strategy to Serve Homeless Students

Connect with resources <u>specifically for youth</u>

- Youth Service Bureau (YSB)

- Supports for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

- Youth Employment (Capital Workforce Partners)

- Others

Activity

SLIDE