WEBINAR

CORONAVIRUS, CHARTER SCHOOLS, AND STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, October 1, 2020 | 1:00 – 2:15PM ET
Housekeeping

HAVE A QUESTION?

This webinar is for you. Enter your questions in the questions pane and click ‘Send’.

RECORDING & HANDOUTS

An archive of this webinar and all materials will be posted here.

This PowerPoint is available in your “Handouts” panel.

If you’ve signed up for this webinar, you will receive a link to the recording in an email after the webinar is over.
Today’s Agenda:
Listen, Learn, Share

- Where to Find NAPCS and SHC Resources
- McKinney-Vento in the COVID Era:
  - Identification
  - Enrollment
  - School of Origin
  - Distance Learning
  - Funding
  - School Meals
About the National Alliance

- The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (National Alliance) is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the public charter school movement.

- MISSION: To lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement for all students by fostering a strong charter sector.

publiccharters.org
@charteralliance
facebook.com/charterschools
@charteralliance
Resources from the National Alliance

https://covid.publiccharters.org/

- Webinars
- Federal and state updates
- Resources on:
  - School reopening
  - Educational equity--including serving students with disabilities, protecting privacy and civil rights, nutrition programs, and more
  - Distance learning

https://ncsc.publiccharters.org

- On-demand sessions and materials from the virtual National Charter Schools Conference
About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website: [http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
- Newsletter: [https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/](https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/)
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Checklists, Guides, and Strategies
- Upcoming and Archived Webinars
- Guest Perspectives
- Policy Updates on COVID-19
- Homeless Education in the News: COVID-19 and Homelessness
- Resources from Federal Agencies and Partner Organizations
Join our Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/SchoolHouseConnection/
Featured Resource: Videos from the Field

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/from-the-field-videos/
I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). I’ve been employed at Confluence Academies for 13 years and have been providing services to families and students in transition throughout my career. I am an advocate and proponent for families and students in transition ensuring fair and equitable rights are obtained.

In my current position as a School District Administrator, I can review and access practices and procedures for families and students in transition recommending and implementing changes to enhance needed services.

I have a Masters in Social Worker from St. Louis University and a Doctorate in Christian Education from Anchor Theological Seminary and Bible Institute. As a LCSW, I have provided individual, group and family counseling to an array of populations.
McKinney-Vento in the COVID Era

How Charter Schools Can Support Students Experiencing Homelessness

COVID-19 FAQ
What attendance format is your school using currently?

- All distance learning
- All in-person learning
- A combination of the two
Identification in the COVID Era

**CHALLENGES**
- Increased homelessness
- Identifying families and youth who become homeless after schools closed.
- Understanding the definition and nature of homelessness

**STRATEGIES**
- As a first step, reach out to families and youth identified as homeless last school year.
- Embed questions and information about homelessness in all school enrollment documents and outreach efforts.
- Once you connect with a parent or youth, stay in touch on a regular schedule. Use weekly “check-in” forms.
- Provide a pre-paid cell phone.
- Identifying Students Experiencing Homelessness During School Building Closures
Where are you posting **public notice** these days?

- Laundromats
- Food bank
- Health care providers
- Law enforcement and eviction courts
- Motels, campgrounds
- LGBTQ youth organizations
- Culturally-specific organizations
Professional development:
Engaging and training teachers is more important than ever.

- **Back-to-School Training Kit**
- Teachers can assign essays or art for students to describe their living situation, or what COVID is like for them. If homelessness might be indicated, the teachers can make a connection with the liaison.

**SIGNS OF POTENTIAL HOMELESSNESS IN A VIRTUAL LEARNING WORLD**

- Frequent changes in the background of where the student is working; the student appears to be changing location frequently
- Many different people in the background, beyond just the student’s immediate family
- Background in a motel/hotel, outdoors, or public areas
- Student/parent unreachable for periods of time
- Unwilling to turn on camera; inconsistent internet.

POLL

Which school staff are engaged in identifying McKinney-Vento students at your school? (check all that apply)

- Principal and other building administrators
- Teachers
- Counselors and/or social workers
- Registrars
- Others
Identification and Communication in the COVID Era

Rochelle Bates, Families in Transition & Parent Involvement Coordinator, Confluence Academies
INCEPTION
Confluence Academies began in 2003 with one campus and 245 students to a network of five academies serving nearly 3,000 students which includes a performing arts school.

Confluence Academies is a non-profit public charter school system that strives to provide the highest quality pre-collegiate education to students in pre-kindergarten through high school. The education goals include preparing students for post-secondary education and technical training.

ADMISSION
Student enrollment is based on open admission and recruitment from three elementary feeder schools within Confluence and local public schools.

MISSION
As a collaborative network of unique schools in an urban setting, Confluence develops the whole child by providing experiences that require critical thinking, creativity, and empathy to equip graduates to become leaders in a changing society.

VISION
Our vision is to be the PreK-12 school network of choice for students, staff, and families, who want to develop innovative learners who invest in their community and future.

DEMOGRAPHICS
The Confluence Academy has a large at-risk student population across the 5 campuses. Approximately 100% of the students receive free and reduced lunch in the network.
IDENTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION PRACTICES

McKinney-Vento Families and Students in Transition During COVID-19

1. Review of enrollment records
2. Reports from teachers, staff and parents identifying signs and symptoms
   - Sleeping during virtual learning class
   - Asking for additional food
   - Wearing the same clothes
   - Reporting homelessness to staff
3. Posters Notices of the rights of McKinney-Vento students in areas where parents and student frequent
   - Main office
   - Counselors and Social Worker’s office
   - Cafeteria and restrooms
   - Virtual Learning Centers
4. Reports from the transportation coordinator regarding changing buses frequently
5. Eligibility of McKinney-Vento is in Confluence Academies Student and Family Handbook
6. Eligibility of McKinney-Vento is posted on Confluence Academies website
7. All staff received professional development, and each school liaison provides information on identification and services provided during staff meetings
CONNECTEDNESS

Crucial questions Confluence deliberated to guide planning

- How can we strengthen connections with our students, families and staff?
- What resources can we provide to families within our budgetary constraints due to COVID-19?
- How can we lead students, staff and families in an ever-changing pool of mandates from local, state and federal governments?
Immediate Enrollment in the COVID Era

The law remains in effect.

- What if students are required to have COVID tests, wear masks, or take other safety precautions prior to attending school?

- What if deadlines have passed to enroll in school, choose between hybrid/distance, or receive other services?
From the Field:
San Antonio ISD, Texas

Making online enrollment work for MV families and students:

1. Online videos with step-by-step instructions on how to register via computer and cell phone, in English and Spanish.
2. System notes in several places that students without a permanent home do not have to supply all the documents usually needed for registration.
3. Provide a number to call for assistance and a link to an Enrollment Guide with information for homeless and foster students.
School of origin in the COVID era

The law remains in effect.

- What about health and safety concerns?
- What about transportation?
- What about distance learning v. in-person learning?
Practices from Confluence Academies, St. Louis Missouri

Enrollment and School of Origin in the COVID Era

Rochelle Bates, Families in Transition & Parent Involvement Coordinator, Confluence Academies
IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT AND SCHOOL OF ORIGIN

- Completion of student residency form by social worker or school counselor
- Home school enrollment coordinator or data owner enrolls student immediately
- Student residency form is emailed to District office for processing to determine mode transportation
- Parent or unaccompanied youth is contacted with transportation information
- Contacts information is given to parent or student of the person to contact for any concerns or problems

- District Liaison will notify school of residency McKinney-Vento Liaison using the Interdistrict transportation request form of the family in transition is in their district
- Transportation is arranged
- Family in transition is receiving transportation service at the onset of the completion of the student residency form
Full Participation in Distance Learning

CHALLENGES

- Lack of internet, devices, electricity
- Lack of safe, stable environment conducive to learning
- Lack of transportation to reach internet spots or pick up devices

STRATEGIES

- Pay for unlimited data and insurance on devices.
- Provide sufficient data and devices for every student in the family.
- Provide mobile hotspots.
- Provide earbuds.
- Teach students how to use fake backgrounds.
- Do not require cameras.
- If a student can join online classes once a week or even less, and completes the work, do not mark them tardy or absent.
Full Participation in Distance Learning

CHALLENGES
- Keeping in touch
- Keeping students engaged
- Lost credits in the spring

STRATEGIES
- Provide one-on-one academic support.
- Prioritize for in-person options.
- Use learning models that respond to housing realities- shorter chunks of time, assignments, and credits.
- Provide partial credit for his work in the spring (work with prior school as needed); Provide credit recovery options.
- Send fun "care packages" weekly to keep students connected to school and know they are cared about.
Practices from Confluence Academies, St. Louis Missouri

Full Participation in the COVID Era

Rochelle Bates, Families in Transition & Parent Involvement Coordinator, Confluence Academies
EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

❖ ChromeBook distribution March 24-25, 2020
❖ Hotspots given to students
❖ Virtual learning centers (VLC) opened on August 25, 2020 to provide tutoring, support, meals and supervision at three of Confluence elementary schools
   Any Confluence student can attend the VLC
   Students in transition are provided bus or cab transportation
   Hours of operations is Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:35pm
❖ All students are given meals to take home
Funding to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness

- McKinney-Vento subgrants
- CARES Act
  - Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund
  - Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund, ESSER
- Title I, Part A funds
What funds are being used in your school to support children and youth experiencing homelessness? (check all that apply)

- McKinney-Vento
- Title I, Part A
- CARES Act
- Other
- I don’t know
School Meals in the Covid Era

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY-BASED SPONSORS NOW CAN USE THE SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO SERVE MEALS THIS FALL.

- Extend Area Eligibility waivers
- Meals can be taken home and delivered
- Meals can be served in non-eligible areas
- Parents/guardians can pick up meals without children present
- Multiple days’ worth of meals can be distributed at one time
- Flexibility in meeting the meal pattern requirements
State School Meal Plans: Trends

IN-PERSON LEARNING

- Serve meals in classroom or stagger cafeteria time
- Individually wrap and serve meals / no self service
- Send breakfast home
- Plan ahead for school closures
State School Meal Plans: Trends

FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING

- Offer multiple meals at once
- Offer delivery services
- Share community partner locations
Afterschool Nutrition Program

- Federal funding to serve nutritious meals and snacks to children and youth at schools, community and recreation centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA’s and other sites that offer educational and enrichment activities after school, on weekends, and during school holidays.
- Can operate on weekends and school holidays.
School Meals Resources

● CDC interim meals guidance for school administrators
● Child Nutrition Waiver Summary
● FNS Coronavirus webpage
Practices from Confluence Academies, St. Louis Missouri
School Meals in the COVID Era

Rochelle Bates, Families in Transition & Parent Involvement Coordinator, Confluence Academies
HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIC NEEDS

Food Distribution - Partnerships
- State agency – Department of Secondary Education Food and Nutrition Service
- St. Louis City
- Public and Charter Schools

Shared collaboration for food distribution sites within St. Louis City.
- Confluence three elementary schools and one high school served as distribution sites.
- Families could access meals at any location.
- Confluence Student Support staff delivered meals to families in transition.
- Meal pickup started on March 23 – breakfast and lunch for students 18 years old and younger.
- Families could pick-up a 7 day dinner meal package on April 14, 2020
**HIERARCHY OF NEEDS**

**PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIC NEEDS**
Confluence Academies Board of Directors Partnerships
Distribution of Hygiene Products
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Lotion

Little Bit Foundation
Washing powder
Snacks and breakfast items

**SAFETY BASIC NEEDS**
Medical
- Aspire’s School Based Health Center operated by Affinia Health Care opened for service on June 5, 2020
- Continuum of Care (COC) to address housing needs for families in shelters and at-risk of losing housing
Questions, challenges, strategies?
Thank you!

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Continue the conversation - https://www.facebook.com/SchoolHouseConnection/groups/