

Homeless Education in
BRUNEAU GRAND VIEW
School District:

*What every district employee needs to
know*

Homelessness: It's a Problem With Many Faces



Homeless Students Reflect the Total Student Population:

- Some are gifted and talented
- Some have learning needs;
- Some are athletic, musical, artistic;
- Some have natural leadership skills;
- Some are behaviorally challenging;
- Most are “survivors,” struggling to beat the odds of their circumstances;

 ALL are valuable individuals and a part of our school community.



HOMELESS & HUNGRY

Many of our homeless families are
“first time” homeless:

- House burns down
- lost job - can't pay rent

The “newly homeless”

- Do not know where to turn for help;
- Feel embarrassed about their situation;
- Feel guilty for having to ask for help;
- Are not experienced in working with social service agencies to address their needs;
- Some would much prefer to “do without” rather than let anyone know of their plight.

If you became homeless, how would you keep your family together?



The McKinney-Vento Act

Authorized Through The Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Requires School Districts to:

- **Designate a “Homeless Liaison” to oversee homeless education**
- **Identify, Engage, and Serve Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth in School**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act . . .

- Maintains educational continuity during a time of transition for the student;
- Requires schools to identify and enroll students who meet the definition of homeless; and
- Specifies provisions that must be made by each school for each homeless student.

Some ways they qualify . . .

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or other similar reason;
- Living in a car, park, campground, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing or similar;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;

- **Migratory** children can qualify as homeless if they are living in the circumstances described earlier
- A homeless **Unaccompanied Youth** is someone who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, **and** who lacks a **fixed, regular, and adequate** night time residence.

Many of our students live in “doubled up” situations with many people in a house.



These posters must be placed in an obvious location in EVERY school building and throughout the community

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter

In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation

In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station

Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.
- * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.



Local Liaison

State Coordinator

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs, contact the National Center for Homeless Education:
1-800-308-2145 • homeless@serve.org • <http://nche.ed.gov>

INFORMACIÓN PARA LOS JÓVENES DE EDAD ESCOLAR



SI VIVES EN CUALQUIERA DE LAS SITUACIONES SIGUIENTES:

En un albergue

En un motel o un sitio para acampar debido a la falta de una alternativa adecuada

En un auto, un parque, un edificio abandonado, o una estación de trenes o de autobuses

Compartiendo la vivienda de otras personas debido a la pérdida de tu casa o a una dificultad económica

Podrías calificar para recibir ciertos derechos y protecciones bajo la ley federal McKinney-Vento.

Estudiantes elegibles tienen derecho a:

- Recibir una educación pública gratuita y apropiada.
- Inscribirse en la escuela inmediatamente, aunque falten documentos normalmente requeridos para la inscripción.
- Inscribirse y asistir a clases mientras que la escuela obtiene los documentos necesarios.
- Inscribirse en la escuela local; o continuar asistiendo a la escuela de origen (la escuela a la cual asistió el estudiante cuando tenía una residencia permanente, o la última escuela en la cual estaba inscrito), si esto es su preferencia.
- * Si el distrito escolar cree que la escuela escogida no es la mejor para el estudiante, el distrito tiene que darle al estudiante una explicación escrita de su posición e informarle de su derecho de apelar su decisión.
- Recibir transporte a/de la escuela de origen, si se lo pide.
- Recibir servicios educacionales comparables a los que están provistos para otros estudiantes, según la necesidad del estudiante.

Si crees que podrías ser elegible, contacta al oficial para la educación de los niños y jóvenes sin hogar del distrito escolar para averiguar los servicios y ayudas que podrían estar disponibles.



Oficial para la educación de los niños y jóvenes sin hogar

Coordinador estatal

Si necesitas ayuda adicional con tus necesidades educacionales, contacta al Centro Nacional de Educación para los Niños y Jóvenes sin Hogar
1-800-308-2145 • homeless@serve.org • <http://nche.ed.gov>

Bruneau Grand View Joint School District #365
Standard Student Residency

This questionnaire is intended to address the McKinney-Vento Act. Your responses will help determine residency status and whether or not additional support and services may be available to this student.

Student's Name _____ Grade: _____

School (circle one): Grand View Elementary Bruneau Elementary Rimrock Jr/Sr High

Presently, where is this student staying **at nighttime**? (start with Section 1)

| Section 1 |
|--|
| <p>_____ in a home you own or rent _____ in a home provided by your employer</p> <p>If checked here STOP: Please sign the bottom of the page.</p> |

OR

| Section 2 |
|---|
| <p>_____ in a temporary housing shelter, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care</p> <p>Or, due to a loss of housing or economic hardship, student lives: _____ with more than one family in a house or apartment _____ in a temporary trailer, campground, car, or park _____ in a hotel or motel</p> <p>If checked here CONTINUE: Please complete the remainder of this form</p> <p>This student lives with:</p> <p>___ 1 parent ___ 2 parents ___ 1 parent & other adult ___ a relative, friend(s), or other adult(s) ___ alone with no adults ___ an adult that is not the parent/legal guardian</p> <p>Name of Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> |

X Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

| |
|--|
| <p>School Use Only: District Administrator's determination of Section B circumstances (please initial): _____ Qualifies under McKinney-Vento _____ Does not qualify under McKinney-Vento</p> |
|--|

This original form must be kept separately from the Student Permanent Record.

A Nighttime
Residency Form
MUST be
placed in the
registration
packet of every
student every
year.

REMEMBER:

Homelessness is a temporary situation in most cases; it is not a permanent description of a child or family

Sometimes we have clues that a child might be homeless:



A child that displays any of the following might be homeless – or in need of additional support:

- Early arrival or departure from school
- Lack of clarity about address, phone or contact information
- Tardy, unusual absences or change in routine
- Lack of appropriate clothing for the season
- Use of school facilities for personal needs
- Stressed, sleepy, change in behavior
- Hygiene issues
- Change in grades or school performance
- Lack of school supplies, lost books/supplies
- Loss of access to computer
- Storing clothes or personal items at school

***If you think a student might be
homeless, discuss your
concerns with the district's
McKinney-Vento Liaison***

What Are the Things a School Must Do?

- The person who registers students in any building **MUST** give every student a copy of the Residency Form. This is filled out annually.
- Once the form is turned in:
 - The school secretary looks for a response in “Section 2” on the form. If no response, nothing more is done.
 - If there is a response in “Section 2”, the school secretary contacts the MV Liaison who will investigate and determine eligibility.
 - The Residency Form is filed separately from the cum file.

What happens if a student qualifies under McKinney-Vento?

- Once a student is identified
 - The form is documented, dated, and signed by the MV Liaison;
 - Student is enrolled immediately, even if required documentation is not available, including birth cert., shot records, etc.
 - The MV Liaison notifies the Food Service Director to ensure student receives free lunch for the year;
 - The MV Liaison will contact the family to determine needs, which may include school supplies, clothing, medical, dental, etc.
 - The MV Liaison will collaborate with appropriate staff to support academic progress of the student.
 - The case is monitored throughout the school year by the MV Liaison.

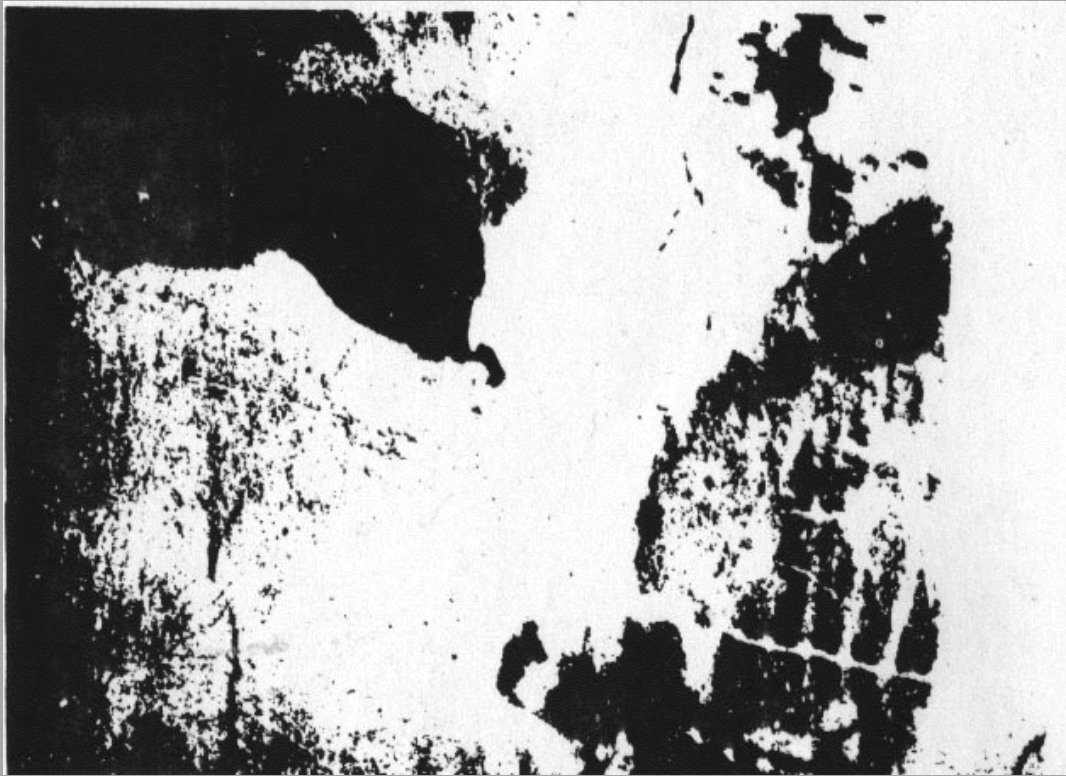
If children are warm and fed, it is much easier to focus on school work.



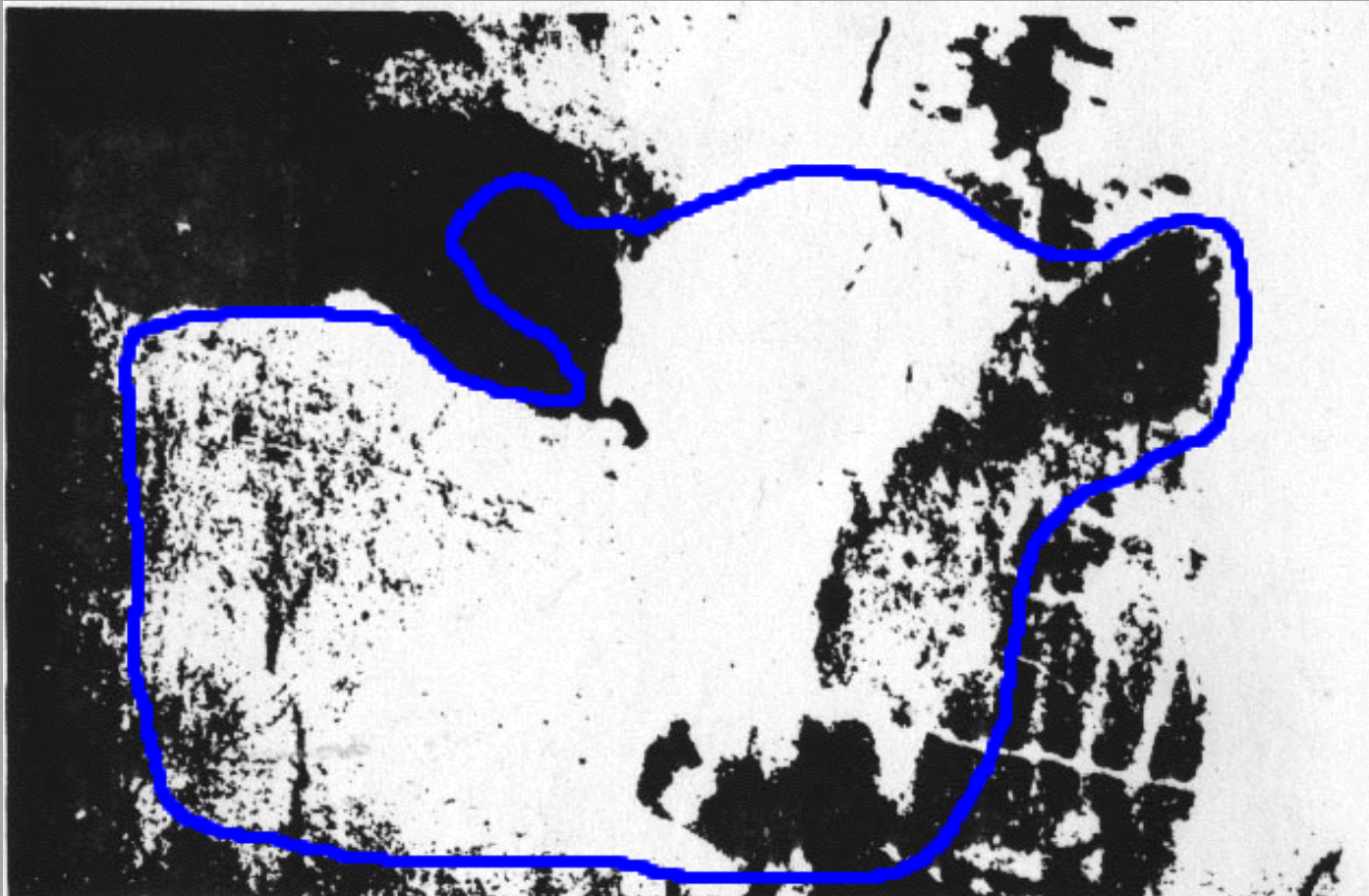
Teachers may be the only
consistent part of a child's life
during the time of
homelessness.

Accept the honor
and the challenge

To a homeless child, life is seen as uncertain and blurred. What do you see?



With some help, the picture becomes clearer:



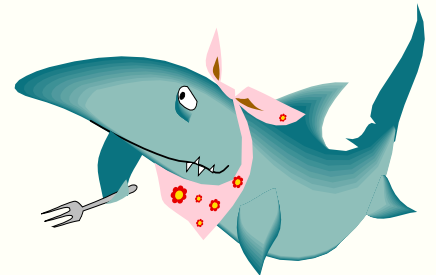
Ways Teachers Can Help:

- Be understanding -
 - they have heavy burdens & fears that their peers don't have
 - they may arrive "messy" - help where you can
- Be sensitive to their challenges -
 - little organization at home
- Give support -
 - find ways for them to succeed
 - they often have gaps due to absences
- Communicate with liaison &/or school counselor
 - especially when you "feel" new problems are rising
- Don't assume students know basic social skills
 - especially true of long term homelessness
- Listen & watch -
 - Are they couch surfing?
- Let them know you care

Some children come to school chronically hungry. How can you know?*

- Quickly eating all the food served; asking for more;
- Regularly asking the teacher for food;
- Saving/hoarding/stealing food to take home;
- Asking classmates for food they don't want;
- Asking when the next meal/snack will be served;
- Rushing food lines;
- Extreme thinness;
- Chronically dry/cracked lips and/or dry and itchy eyes.

• *Source: The Idaho Foodbank



“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Leo F. Buscaglia

To the world you
may be one
person, but to
one person you
may be the
world

Dr. Seuss