

# Understanding the Rights and Protections of Unaccompanied Youth

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**Savannah, GA**

**Presenters:**

**Melanie Barner, Grants Program Consultant**

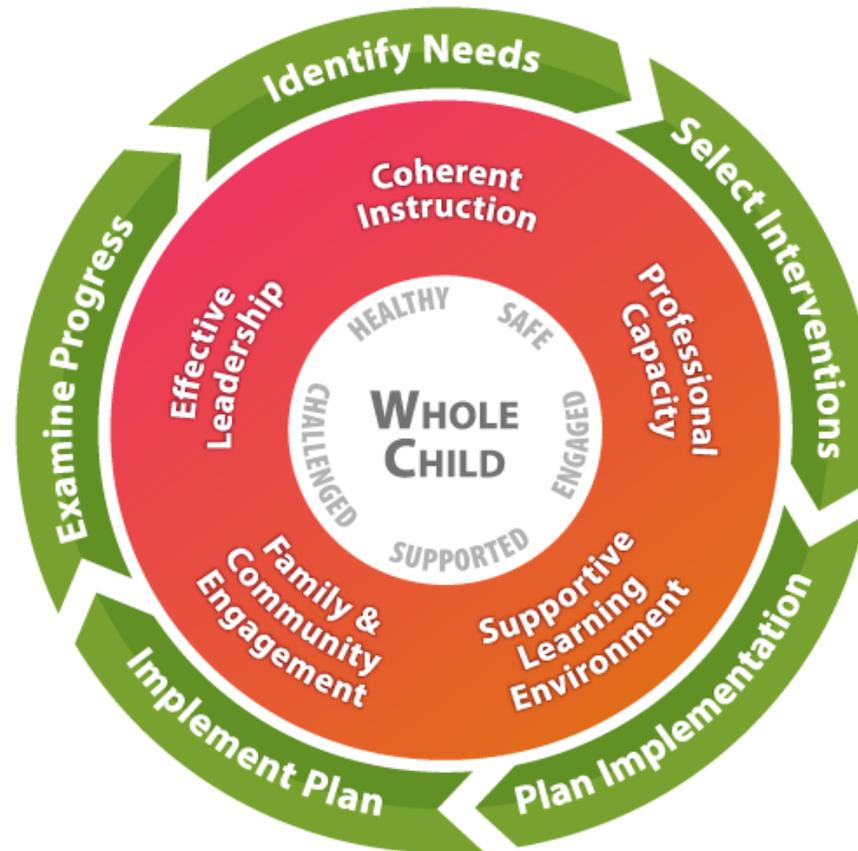
**Erica Glenn, Grants Program Consultant**

**Whittney Mitchell, Grants Program Consultant**

**Kim Pluhar, Forsyth County Schools**

**Sonja Tobler, Dekalb County Schools**

# Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement



# Content

- Overview of Unaccompanied Youth
  - Identification
  - Data
  - Educational Barriers
  - Educational Rights
- LEA Supports for Unaccompanied Youth
  - DeKalb County
  - Forsyth County
- Strategies to Support Unaccompanied Youth
- Questions/ Discussion

# Questions for Consideration

- What forms of targeted outreach does your district conduct to engage unaccompanied youth?
- What are the common traits that unaccompanied youth may exhibit that assist with identification?
- What data does your district currently record to help capture the needs of unaccompanied youth?



# Data Walk/ Identification Activity



Offering a holistic education to **each and every child** in our state.



# Overview and Identification

## Unaccompanied Youth

# McKinney-Vento Act

## Definition of Homeless Students

- ❑ Individuals whose nighttime residence is NOT:
  - ❑ Fixed—stationary, permanent, and not subject to change
  - ❑ Regular—used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis
  - ❑ Adequate—sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home(42 U.S.C.§11434A(2)(B)(i))

*Can the student go to the SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)?*

# McKinney-Vento Act

**The Homeless definition includes children and youth who are:**

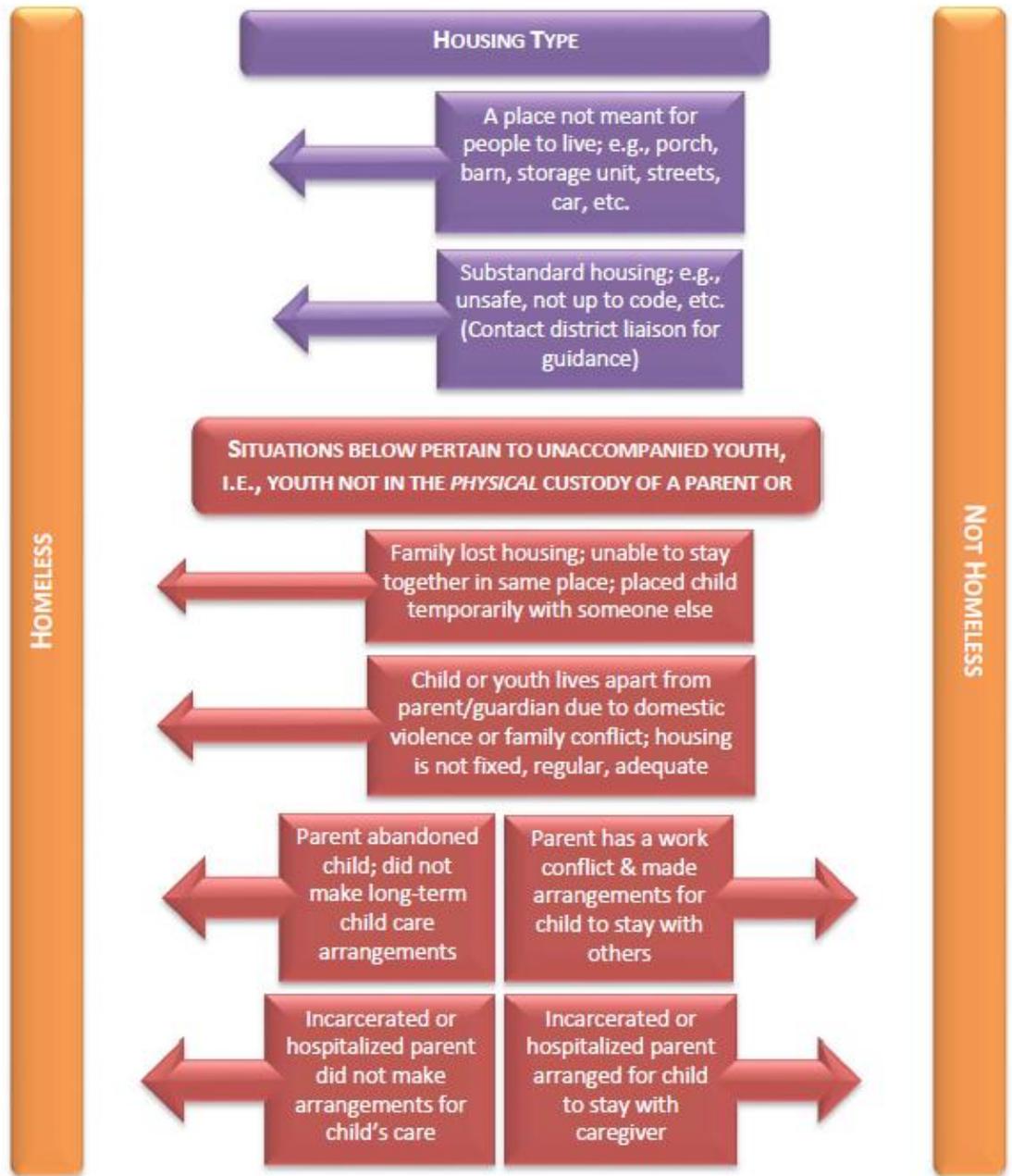
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;**
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due the lack of alternative accommodations;**
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;**
- Abandoned in hospitals;**

# McKinney-Vento Act

## Definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

- ❑ **Unaccompanied = not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; in practical terms, this means the youth does not live with the parent or guardian.**
  
- ❑ **2-Step Process:**
  1. **Does the student's living arrangement meet the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homeless?**
  2. **Once homelessness is determined, is the student unaccompanied?**

# UHY Flow Chart



# McKinney-Vento Act

- Unaccompanied youth have the same rights as other students experiencing homelessness.
- Unaccompanied youth have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians. These young people are separated from their parents for a variety of reasons:
  - Over half report being physically abused at home
  - Over one third report sexual abuse
  - Over two-thirds report that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol

# Data Collection

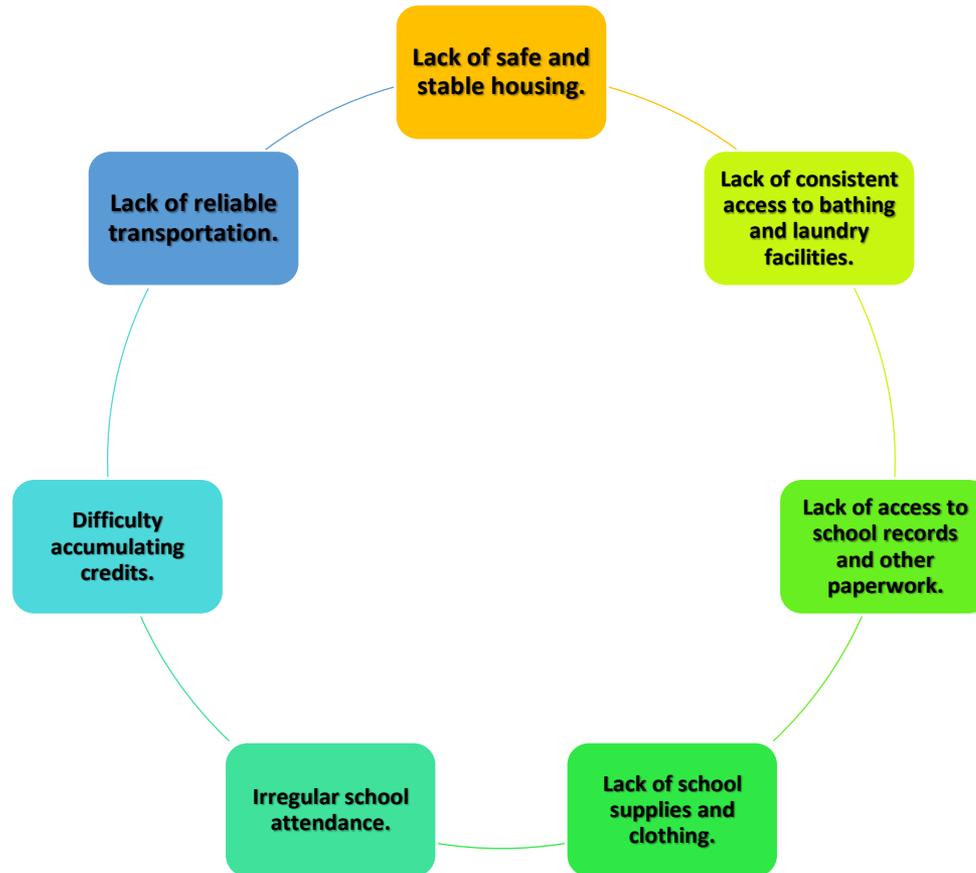
- ❑ **ENVIRONMENT CODE** indicates the type of residential environment in which a student resides or the type of school the student attended at anytime during this school year at this school. Code only those students for whom one of the codes below apply. For students where codes do not apply, leave blank.

Environment Code	Description
1	Resides in a local institution for neglected
2	Resides in a local institution for delinquent
3	Homeless
4	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

# UHY Educational Rights



# Unaccompanied Youth Educational Barriers



# Foster Care

## Are UHY who are in foster care eligible for McKinney-Vento?

McKinney-Vento eligibility should be considered on a case-by-case basis:

- Foster youth with a fixed, regular and adequate residence: **NOT ELIGIBLE**
- Foster youth without a fixed, regular and adequate residence: **ELIGIBLE**
  - i.e. - Youth ran away from placement and is not in a fixed, regular and adequate residence
  - i.e. - Youth fleeing domestic violence in the foster care home
  - i.e. – Youth displaced due to natural disaster/fire at foster care home
  - i.e. – Youth who age out of the foster care system
- In a given school year, youth identified as MV eligible prior to entering foster care: **ELIGIBLE**

# Reporting to Child Welfare

## Are you a mandated reporter?

- Liaisons should make reports consistent with state law when there is a reason to suspect abuse, neglect, and/or that a student is in danger.





# HB530 and ILP Students In Care

# HB530

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**Effective July 1, 2019**

Prohibits parents or guardians from withdrawing or removing a child from a public school for the purpose of avoiding compliance with laws relating to mandatory attendance, school discipline, parental involvement, or parental responsibilities.

# Independent Living Program (ILP)

**ILP provides funding and support to help youth successfully transition from foster care. To be eligible you must meet one of these conditions:**

- Age 14 to 21 in the foster care system regardless of their permanency plan
- Under 21 and was eligible for IL services when DFCS placement authority ended
- Between the ages 21 and 25 and enrolled in college, technical school or a training program

# ILP Services



- Education:** Youth acquire training and educational opportunities that lead to post-secondary education
- Employment:** Youth are assisted in searching for employment opportunities and receive education on how to generate income to support themselves
- Housing:** Youth have access to safe, stable, appropriate, and affordable housing in the community near public transportation
- Health:** Youth are guided in managing affordable health insurance for mental, physical, and dental needs
- Supportive Relationships:** Youth have in place supportive relationships that are able to assist them with obtaining services throughout the community for the purposes of achieving personal goals

# UHY: Who Can Sign?

## Barriers

- Extracurricular activities
- Fieldtrips
- Medical services
- School absences
- Additional school programming

## Solutions

- Federal law does not require LEAs to take a unified approach in resolving signature barriers
- Liaisons should consult with their legal counsel on how to create internal policies that will remove roadblocks to education for UHY

**Under the Operational Dashboard tab, click “Foster Report”. If you do not see this option, please contact your district data coordinator for access.**

The screenshot shows the Operational Dashboard interface. The 'Operational Dashboard' tab is selected, and a dropdown menu is open, highlighting the 'Foster Report' option. A red arrow points to this option. The interface includes a search bar, filter options, and a table of student data.

Student Name	Gender	Race/Ethnicity	Total	ELL	ED	Gifted	Retained	Remedial	Migrant	SWD	SST	Military	Foster Status	Start Date	End Date
Elementary School			2												
Elementary School			1												
Middle School			1												
Elementary School			5												
Elementary School			2												
Elementary School			2												
Elementary School			2												
Elementary School			2												
Elementary School			1												
High School			3												
Middle School			4												
Elementary			2												
Elementary School			3												

# LEA Supports for Unaccompanied Youth

Dekalb and Forsyth County Schools



# Strategies and Resources



# Targeted Outreach and Engagement Strategies



Post outreach materials where youth congregate (parks, clubs/ organizations, libraries, etc.)



Include contact information for the local liaison in all outreach materials.



Develop outreach materials targeted specifically to youth. (NCHE Webpage)



Make the school a welcoming and supportive place.



Use youth-friendly means of communication. (Websites, email, text, social media)



Ask other students to spread the word about services.



Build trusting relationships.

# School Engagement Strategies



- Review and revise policies to assist with accumulating credits toward graduation
- Provide access to showers and laundry facilities
- Familiarize key personnel with laws regarding minor medical consent
- Familiarize key personnel with laws regarding mandated reporting of suspected abuse or neglect, or a runaway

# School Engagement Strategies

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- Notify school nutrition when unaccompanied youth enrolls
- Provide flexibility with school assignments, especially those with supplies needed
- Familiarize key personnel with eligibility for local social service and housing programs

Office & Divisions • Programs & Initiatives • Data & Reporting • Learning & Curriculum • State Board & Policy • Finance & Operations • Contact • Calendar

### District Support Directory

Please type in the name of your district below to list the OSSE staff that support your district.\*

Program Area	Name	Specialist/Program	Title	Email Address	Phone
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Chad Turner	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Manager	clturner@doe.ga.gov	404-202-1515
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Chad Turner	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Manager	clturner@doe.ga.gov	404-495-0151
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Chad Turner	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Specialist	clturner@doe.ga.gov	404-495-0151
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Allyssa Swann	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Specialist	aswann@doe.ga.gov	404-495-0151
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Lalaysia Robinson	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Specialist	lrobinson@doe.ga.gov	404-557-0151
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Mika Hault	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Specialist	mhaalt@doe.ga.gov	404-471-0151
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Shana Ray	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Specialist	shray@doe.ga.gov	404-495-0151
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Sharon Swanson	Selected Programs - Title II, Part I, Instructional Programs	Program Specialist	swansonsh@doe.ga.gov	404-595-0151
ACCESS for ELs	Mary Heidi Melville	SAE 12462205 for ELs (2016) and ACCESS for ELs	Assessment Specialist	melvhe@doe.ga.gov	404-202-0151
Accountability	Angela Spitzer	CSDE, College and Career Performance Index	Accountability Research Specialist	aspitzer@doe.ga.gov	404-441-4646
Accountability	Max Bradford	CSDE, College and Career Performance Index	Accountability Specialist	bradmax@doe.ga.gov	404-441-1151
Accountability	Larry Andrews	CSDE, College and Career Performance Index	Accountability Specialist	larryand@doe.ga.gov	404-441-0151
Accountability	Nicholas VanDyke	CSDE, College and Career Performance Index	Accountability Specialist	vanndyke@doe.ga.gov	404-441-0151
Accountability	David Swanson	CSDE, College and Career Performance Index	Director of Accountability	swanson@doe.ga.gov	404-441-0151

**NCHE** National Center for Homeless Education RESOURCE

## The National Center for Homeless Education

NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance and information center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

### McKinney-Vento Awareness Materials

Access and order materials to support McKinney-Vento Awareness in your community.

### Find State & Local Contacts

Find your State Coordinator for McKinney-Vento and access the Local Liaison Directory by state.

Schoolhouse Connection

### How to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness

Tips for Teachers & Staff

# Resources

- GaDOE District Support Directory
- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) Webpage
- NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit
- Schoolhouse Connection Webpage
- Foster Care Non-Regulatory Guidance

The National Center for Homeless Education's

## Homeless Liaison Toolkit

2017 Edition

Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress has passed, and the President has signed, a resolution of disapproval of the accountability and State plans final regulations that were published on November 29, 2016 (81 FR 86076). This guidance document is unaffected by that resolution and remains applicable.

### Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

## Course Catalog



Homeless Education - New Directors Online Course



Rural Education - New Directors Online Course

# Resources

- ❑ DFCS EPAC Webpage
- ❑ Office of Inspector General Residential Child Care Search
- ❑ The National Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Neglected and Delinquent Children and Youth
- ❑ GaDOE Fed Talks Podcast
- ❑ GaDOE Professional Learning Opportunities Modules

The National Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Neglected or Delinquent Children and Youth

WHAT IS TITLE I, PART D? ADMINISTERING TITLE I, PART D TOPIC AREAS DIRECT ASSISTANCE EVENTS STATE INFORMATION ABOUT US

**NEW NDTAC FAST FACTS IN A TOR**  
**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**  
 NDTAC's Fast Facts pages present national and State data and graphics regarding students enrolled in Title I, Part D programs. The insights they provide are the strategies they...

**Welcome to NDTAC**  
 Providing technical assistance to State agencies with Title I, Part D programs and improving education services for children and youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk.

**Featured Resources**  
**NDTAC Guide: Making It Count: Strategies for Improving Mathematics Instruction for Students in Short-Term Facilities**  
 This version updates the information from the earlier publication, and also includes strategies for using project-based learning and Web-based instructional programs to support the development of mathematics proficiency for youth in short-term...

**Title I, Part D National & State Fast Facts**

Office Of Inspector General Residential Child Care

**Facility Search**

Program Type: [Select] Facility Name: [ ] Phone: [ ]  
 Address: [ ] City: [ ] County: [ ]  
 Zip: [ ] [Search] [Cancel]

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**Fed Talks Podcast**

**FEDTalks**  
 A podcast for the discussion of Georgia's Federal Programs

Fed Talks is a weekly podcast featuring federal programs staff from the Georgia Department of Education and Georgia's public schools. For many individuals, the purpose of federally funded programs is unknown. Through its Fed Talks series, the Georgia Department of Education is sharing more information on the ways Georgia is leveraging federal funds to serve Georgia students and Georgia schools.

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 Georgia Division of Family & Children Services  
 2 Peachtree Street, NW  
 26th Floor  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
 epac@dhe.ga.gov

**ESM Locator**

To Locate Education Support Mentors (ESM) by County:

First Name	Last Name	Email
Sherrita	Franklin	pserrita.franklin@dhe.ga.gov
Shenna	Lewis	shenna.lewis@dhe.ga.gov
Makeba	Dunson	makeba.dunson@dhe.ga.gov
Mary	Molloy	mary.molloy@dhe.ga.gov
Shantel	Tate	shanteltate@dhe.ga.gov
Victoria	Green	victoria.green@dhe.ga.gov
MAAC	Agency	EDU-inside@maac.k12.ga.org
Lois	Martin	loismartin@dhe.ga.gov
Kerisa	Alexander	kerisa.alexander1@dhe.ga.gov
Diamond	Cash	diamond.cash@dhe.ga.gov

Page Size: 10 15 Items in 2 pages

ESM State Map

Contact Us Form

# Discussion



# GaDOE Contact Information

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