



McKinney-Vento Programming from the Field

Laura Grier | Homeless Liaison, Hamilton County Schools
Jill Bouldin | Systems Navigator, Van Buren County Schools
Theresa McCormick | Federal Programs Supervisor,
Hardin County Schools

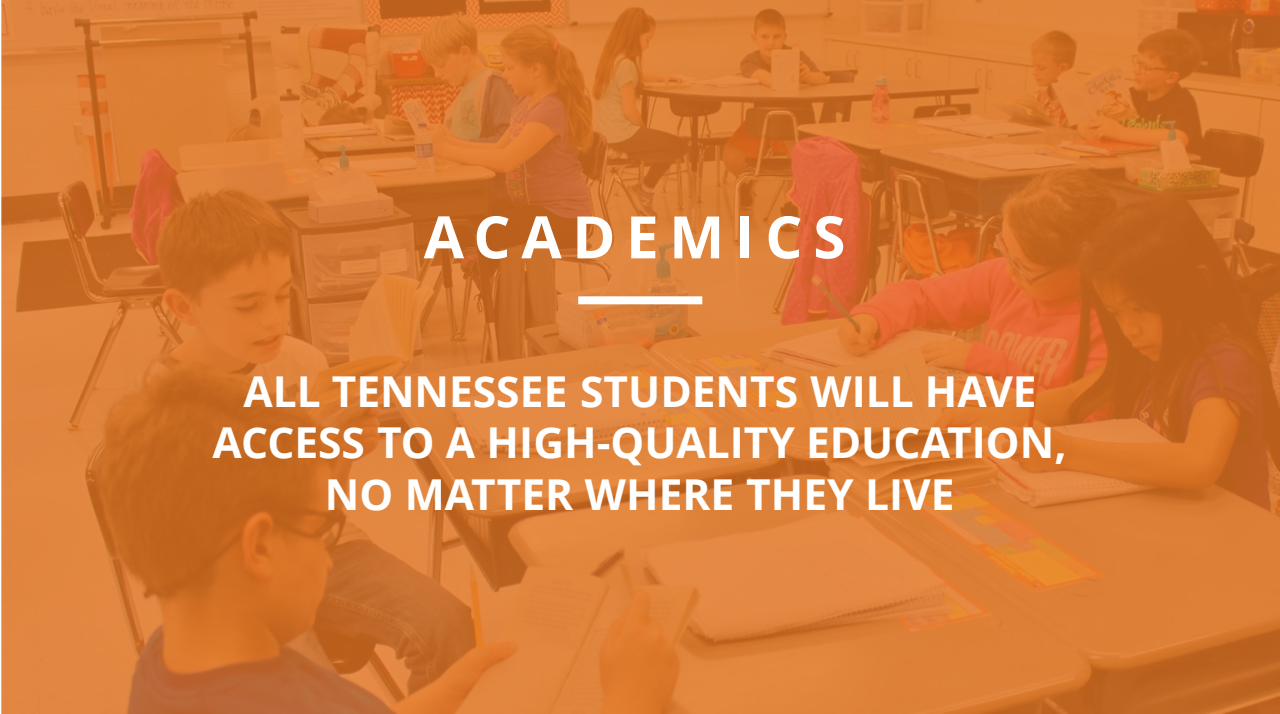
Aug. 21, 2023





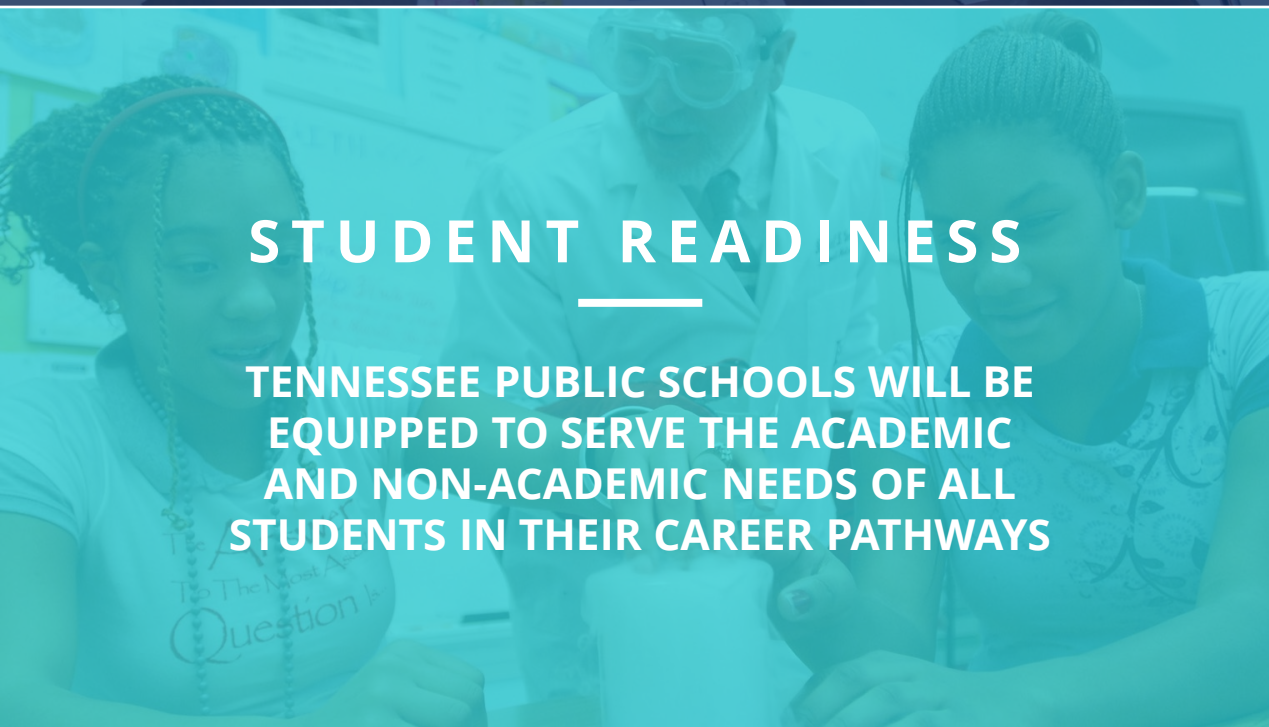
BEST FOR
ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.



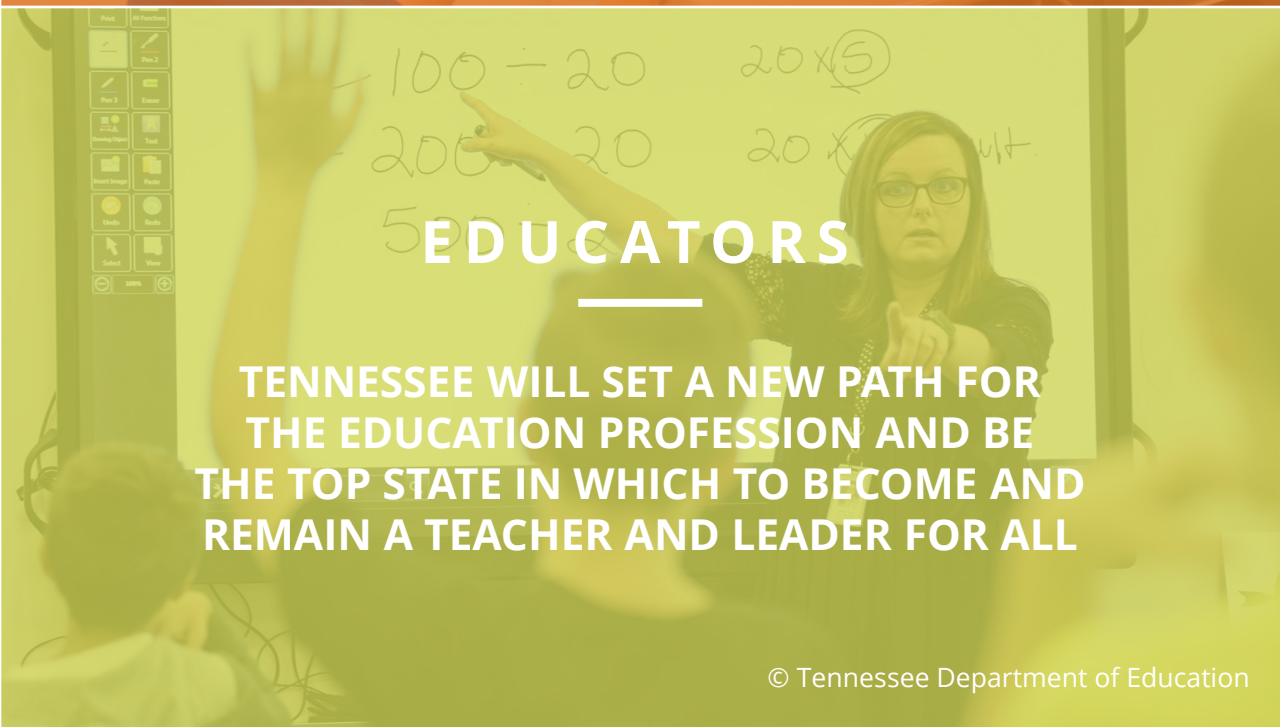
ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE



STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS



EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



Agenda

- Hamilton County Schools, Laura Grier
- Van Buren County Schools, Jill Boldin
- Hardin County Schools, Therese McCormick



Hamilton County Schools Chattanooga, TN

New Initiatives

- Food boxes and food pantry
- Project Prom
- Camp in a Bag
- Libraries at local shelters
- Summer College/Career Tours
- Washer/Dryers at select schools
- Christmas Assistance
- Homeless Awareness Month Counselor Classroom Plans
- School involvement in Donation Drives
- Summer Camps (ex. Zoo, CDM, Sports)



Additional Resources



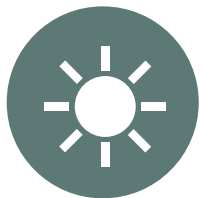
Transportation Options

Shuttle Buses
Gas or Uber Cards
CARTA Bus Passes



Clothing Items

Non-Uniform Clothing/Athletic Wear
Under garments and socks
Coats/Jackets



School Age Child Care

Registration Fees
Before or After Care Daily Cost
Break and Summer Daily Cost



Project Prom

Prom Dress and Suit Give Away
New Suits



Access to Internet

Free Internet
Mobile Hotspots
Prepaid Phone Cards



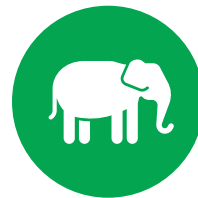
Referrals

Coordinated Entry Assessments
YHDP – Unaccompanied Youth Program
Housing Navigation



High School

Driving Lessons
ACT Prep
Summer College/Trade School Tours



Activities

Zoo Memberships
Summer Camps
Family Memberships



How We Got There

- Advocating
- Collaboration is Key
- How to Connect
- Positive Outcomes
- The Why: Student Success Story



Advocating

- **McKinney Vento Act**
 - Know the law and rights for students and parents
 - Advocate on behalf of the student's best interest
 - Inform the community, staff, students, and families of the rights
- **Don't be afraid to reach out to your McKinney Vento State Representative or Continuum of Care (CoC).**
- **Apply for grants**
- **Advocate for adequate staffing**
- **It's okay to stand up for student's rights or changes to programs**



Collaboration is Key

- **Learn best practices and services needed to best serve students and families.**
- **Breakdown barriers to community resources**
 - Establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and referral processes between schools (or agencies) with community partners.
 - Data Sharing
 - Don't bypass the Continuum of Care (CoC)
 - Institute for Community Alliances (ICA)
 - Establish relationships with local CoC, community members, and agencies
 - Success Story: Hotel Shut Down, Grant opportunities for those experiencing homelessness
- **Increase identification and awareness of McKinney Vento rights and services**
- **Reduce stigma surrounding homelessness and fear to seek assistance.**
- **Become a team working together to end homelessness.**



How to Connect

- **Engage in positive working relationships with CoC staff and community partners.**
 - Attend CoC Advisory Board Meetings.
 - Form committees with CoC and local agencies.
- **Increase outreach**
 - Be willing to present outside of the school setting.
 - Participate in community events to spread awareness.
 - Visit local shelters, hotels, and agencies.
- **Gather insight from others to develop an effective program**
 - Learn from individuals with lived experience
 - Learn from experts in the field or those with “boots on the ground.”



Hotel Living?

*Need help
registering
for school?*

SCAN ME!



*Self-refer
for more
info!*



**HAMILTON
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

**Families in Transition (FIT)
423-498-7073**

Positive Outcomes from Collaboration

- **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)**
 - Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness (18-24 years old)
 - Awarded \$2.2 Million to develop transitional housing, rapid rehousing, case management, and wrap-around services
- **Established crisis response team to local hotel shutdowns**
- **Increase identification of students and families**
- **Increased referrals for housing navigations and other agencies**
 - We are now able to refer all categories of homelessness to navigators



The Why: A Student Success Story



Meet S.J.

- Moved to Hamilton County in 2021.
- Lived with his family in a shelter and had a history of homelessness.
- By his senior year, S.J. became an unaccompanied youth and couch surfing.
- Turned 18, referred to YHDP, and housed in the transitional housing unit.
- **Now...**
 - S.J. has flourished from stability and the support from YHDP and staff,
 - Has a stable job,
 - Graduated on time and celebrated, and
 - Plans to attend college in the fall.



Contact Information

- **Laura Grier**
Homeless Liaison
Hamilton County Schools
 - (423) 498-7073
 - Grier_L@hcde.org



Van Buren County Schools Spencer, TN

Partnerships

- Building space provided by Van Buren County Chamber of Commerce
- Souls for Soles for shoes and socks
- Monetary Donations:
 - Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
 - Caney Fork Electric Cooperative
 - Ben Lomand Telephone
 - Cumberland Family Care
 - Dr. Webb
 - Middle Tennessee Natural Gas
 - StoneCom Radio
 - Countless Community Members and Businesses





Family Resource Center

- Shower Facility
- Washer and Dryers
- Laundry Supplies
- Personal Hygiene Supplies
- Food Pantry
- Shoes and socks
- Clothes
- Bedding/Pillows/Blankets
- Household Items - dishes



Family Resource Building



Bathroom remodeled for shower



Washer and Dryer Sets



Food Pantry



Contact Information

- **Jill Bouldin**

Homeless System Navigator
Van Buren County Schools

– (931) 946-2242

– JBouldin@vanburenschools.org



Hardin County Schools

Savannah, TN

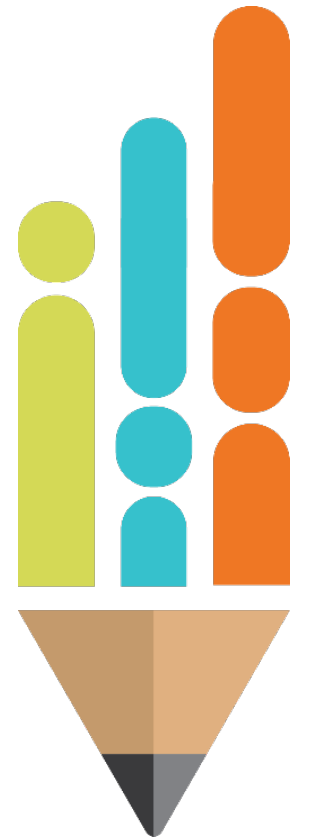
Identifying Homeless Students & Informing School Personnel

- Homeless Students Identified - 2020-21 (62 students), 2021-22 (91 students), 2022-23 (160 students)
- Household Surveys
- School Personnel (administration, teachers, support staff, guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, etc. all work together to identify homeless students)
- Homeless list goes out to administrators, nurses, guidance counselors, and social workers each time a student is added
- Homeless list contains – date, student ID number, school, grade, status (doubled-up, unaccompanied youth, etc.), reported by, and notes
- Teachers are notified if they have students on the list



How do we serve our homeless students without having a Family Resource Center or receiving McKinney-Vento Funds?

- Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside Funds
- ARP Homeless 2.0 Funds
- Community Donated Items & Funds
- Our Daily Bread Food Pantry
- House of Hope
- Jesus Cares
- Local Businesses



Use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Homeless 2.0 Funds

- Stipends paid to homeless navigators at each school
- Purchase items for monthly care packages (snacks, hygiene products, clothing, socks, books or book series, coloring books, crayons, etc.)
- Three nights in a motel
- Social-Emotional training for all staff [Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Restorative Practices]



Homeless Navigators

- Once students are identified, navigators meet with them to complete an interest inventory (favorite snacks, books they like, clothing sizes, etc.)
- Purchase items and collect donated items to put in the monthly care packages
- Check on students and their families to see what needs they have
- Help families apply for TennCare
- Help high school students find jobs
- Help families try to find housing
- Connect families with community resources



Sample Student Information Sheet



Student Information

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Contact Info: _____

Does student have electricity? Yes No Does student have microwave? Yes No

Does student have running water? Yes No Does student have mattress? Yes No

Does student have blankets, etc? Yes No Does student need clothing? Yes No

Pants Size: _____ Shirt Size: _____ Shoe Size: _____

Snacks: _____

Food Dislikes: _____

Hygiene Needs: _____

Hygiene Scents/Flavors: _____

Supplies Needed: _____

Books Student Enjoys: _____

Additional Notes: _____

2023-2024 School Year

__ Sept. __ October __ November __ December __ January __ February __ March __ April __ May





How to fund things after the ARP Homeless Grant Ends

- Donations from local churches, businesses, and individuals
- Check with your local finance department
- Examples of donations



Contact Information

- **Theresa McCormick**
Homeless Liaison
Hardin County Schools
 - (731) 925-3943
 - Theresa.McCormick@hctnschools.com



Resources



Resources

- Hamilton County [Families Experiencing Homelessness or Families in Transition \(FIT\)](#)
- Van Buren County [Family Resource Center](#)
- Hardin County [Homeless Resources](#)



Resources

- [U.S. Department of Education \(ED\): McKinney-Vento Law and Guidance](#)
- [Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)
- [ePlan > TDOE Resources](#) > ESSA Information, Guidance, PPTs, & Webinars > Title IX, Part A Education for Homeless Children & Youth > McKinney-Vento Toolkit and Resources 2021
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\):](#)
 - [NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit](#)
 - Homeless Education Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org





Questions?



Thank You!

Vanessa Waters | McKinney-Vento and Immigrant Grant Manager

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1-800-232-5454

Notifications can also be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline>