

The McKinney-Vento Improvement Plan (M-VIP)

Strategic Investments to Improve Graduation Rates for Inadequately Housed Students

In New Mexico, an estimated 15,000 – 20,000 students are homeless or inadequately housed, with a 61% graduation rate.

Guaranteed Payment for Attendance (GPA)

GPA uses an evidence-based intervention to dramatically improve graduation rates among highly vulnerable McKinney-Vento students.

Participating students receive a \$500 monthly payment conditioned on school and tutoring attendance, and engagement in social-emotional support. The money helps stabilize them in housing and reduces barriers to graduation, such as transportation access and food insecurity.

In 2020-2021, New Mexico Appleseed piloted GPA with Cuba (CISD), and West Las Vegas(WLVSD) McKinney-Vento students, resulting in a 93% graduation rate.

An 82% Increase in Graduation Rates

BEFORE

61%
Graduation
Rate*

*NM Statewide
MKV Graduation
Rate



AFTER

93%
Graduation
Rate*

*GPA Pilot
Graduation
Rate

McKinney-Vento students, who experience inadequate housing, face substantial academic challenges compared to their adequately housed counterparts. They exhibit higher rates of absenteeism, frequent school changes, and increased incidence of mental health issues. They are at greater risk of housing instability into adulthood, highlighting the critical need for targeted support and intervention to ensure their academic success and well-being.



Chronic Absentee Rate
for NM MKV Students 51%ⁱ



Homelessness students have
3 times the rate of emotional
& behavioral problemsⁱⁱ



Youth without a diploma are
4.5 times more likely to
experience homelessness
later in lifeⁱⁱⁱ



50% of homelessness
children under four have
developmental delays^{iv}

Existing Need Versus Existing Funding

Student Need	Federal Funds	Federal ARP-HCY Funds	Needed M-VIP State Funds
Identification of students	Inadequate	Expired	✓
Support of students	Inadequate	Expired	✓
Transportation to/from school	Inadequate	Expired	✓
Enriched Educational Services	Inadequate	Expired	✓
Emergency Housing Voucher	Not Permitted	Expired	✓
Professional Development for School Personnel	Not Permitted	Expired	✓
Prepaid Cards for Necessary Materials	Not Permitted	Expired	✓
State MKV administration	Inadequate	Expired	✓

M-VIP Legislation:

- Creation of a Dedicated Office:** Establish a new office within the Public Education Department tasked with expanding oversight of the McKinney-Vento program. This dedicated entity will centralize efforts to enhance program efficacy, streamline administrative processes, and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders to better serve the educational needs of homeless students statewide. **Total Cost: \$5,000,000**
- Mandated Screening Tools:** Implement screening tools in every public and charter school at the beginning of the academic year to identify homeless students promptly. Early identification enables timely intervention and support, ensuring homeless students have equitable access to education.
- Required Warm Handoff Between Schools:** Facilitating a warm handoff ensures vital information regarding a student's McKinney-Vento status and where they are in coursework is efficiently communicated to the receiving school. This approach minimizes disruptions to learning and enhances support continuity.
- Mandated Teacher and Support Staff Training for LEAs:** Require proper and regular training of educators and support staff who may lack the necessary awareness and sensitivity to effectively address the unique needs of homeless students. Training will equip them with the knowledge and skills to identify and support homeless students, provide necessary resources, and create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere within schools.
- Additional State Funding:** Allocate increased financial resources to empower schools to implement targeted interventions and provide comprehensive services, effectively addressing the multifaceted needs of homeless students. Money would flow through PED to districts. **Total Cost: \$5,000,000**
- Guaranteed Payment for Attendance (GPA):** Supporting 1500 McKinney-Vento students with incentives can elevate graduation rates in New Mexico to an impressive 93%, surpassing the previous 51% rate.^v This initiative alleviates financial hurdles and motivates academic involvement, ensuring regular attendance, homework completion, and active participation. **Total Cost: \$14,500,000**

Total Estimated Cost of M-VIP: \$20,000,000

ⁱ <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/safe-healthy-schools/attendance-for-success/annual-state-districts-and-schools-attendance-report/>

ⁱⁱ <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/caring-health-wellness-children-experiencing-homelessness#:~:text=They%20also%20go%20hungry%20twice,of%20children%20who%20have%20homes>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/data-profiles/>

^{iv} <https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Apr09HealingHands.pdf>

^v NM Appleseed Poverty advocacy Lab. "Students Experiencing Homelessness: A Conditional Cash Transfer Pilot." Pg 17 https://issuu.com/newmexicoappleseed/docs/rural_students_with_inadequate_housing_-_jun202022