

Widespread Impact of Homelessness on Dane County Students

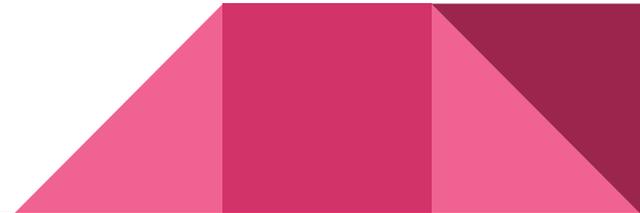
Erin Schettler, Director of Student Services, VASD

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What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act?

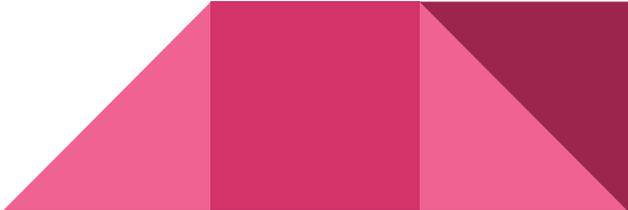
- Federal law
 - Formerly under No Child Left Behind
 - Currently under Every Student Succeeds Act
- Gives rights to students and families experiencing homelessness
- Ensures immediate enrollment and helps maintain educational stability



Who is Considered Homeless?

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence

Examples:

- Living in an emergency or transitional shelter
 - Living in a motel, hotel, or campground due to lack of adequate housing
 - Sharing housing with relatives or others due to economic hardship or similar reason
 - Living at a train or bus station, a park, or in a car
 - Living in an abandoned building
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Unaccompanied Youth

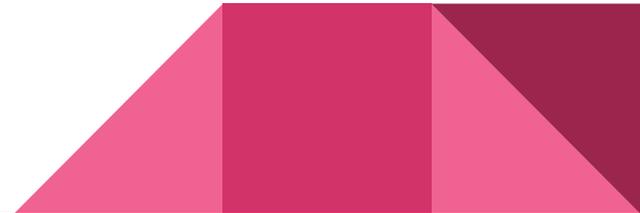
Unaccompanied Youth:

Children who meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento AND are not under the care of a parent/legal guardian.

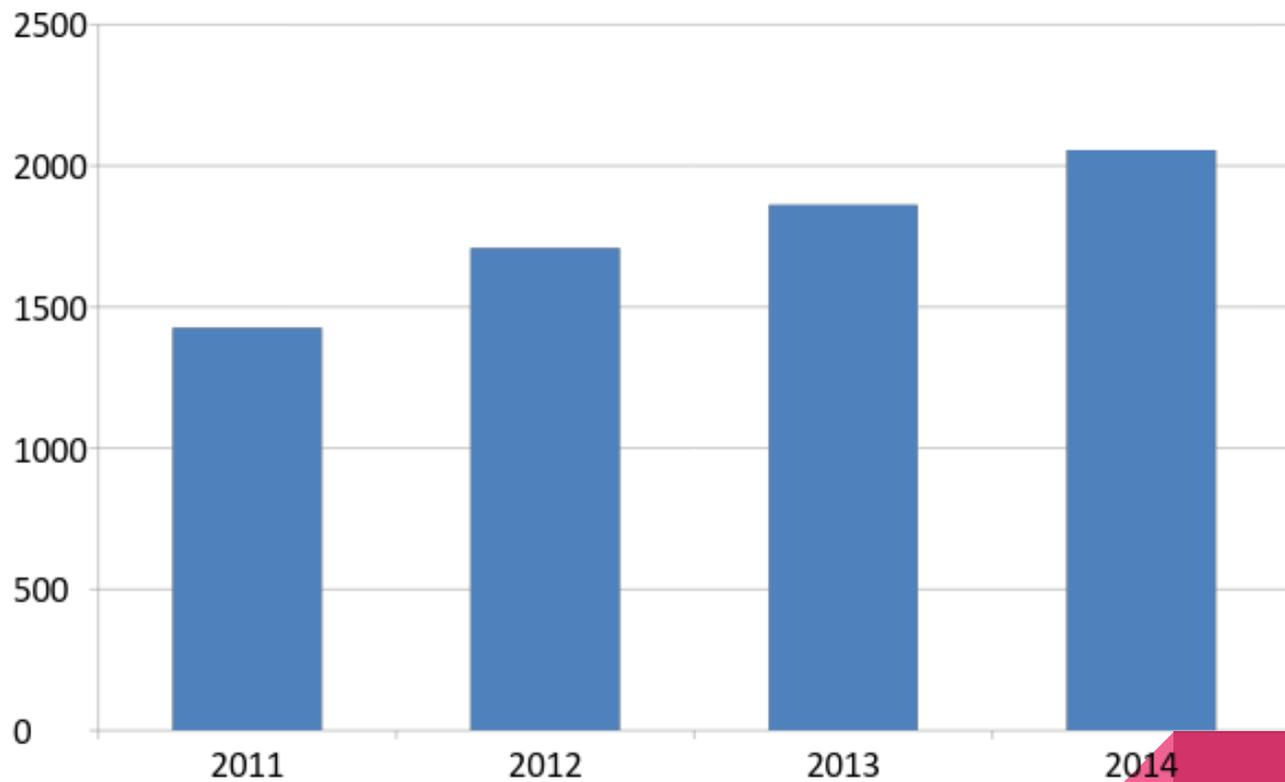


Student Rights Under McKinney-Vento:

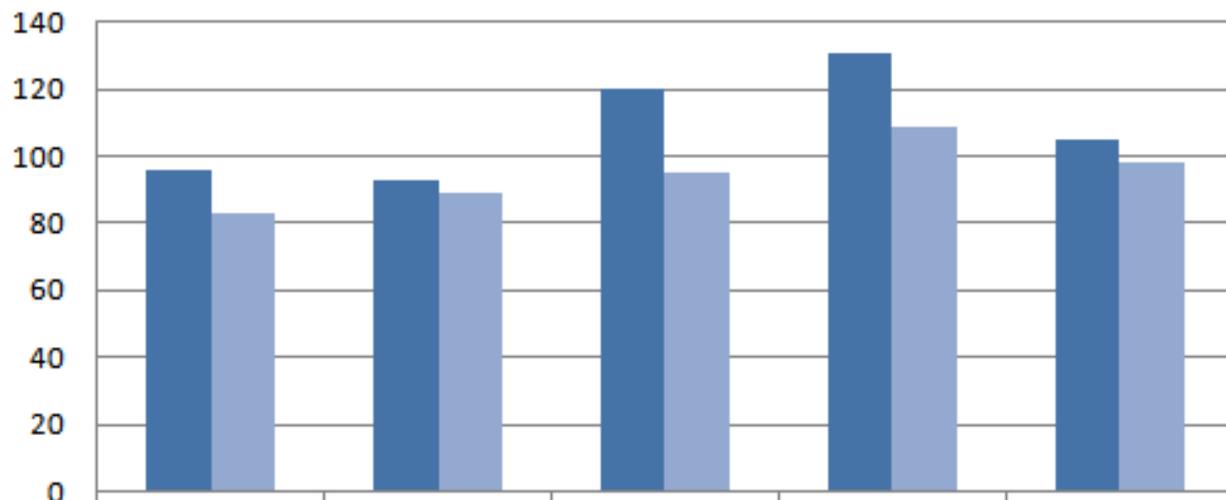
- Immediate school enrollment
- School Choice (school of origin or school of residency)
- Free breakfast and lunch
- School fee waivers
- Transportation during period of homelessness



Number of Dane County Students in Transition



Number of Students in Transition



| | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015 to Present |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| ■ Middleton | 96 | 93 | 120 | 131 | 105 |
| ■ Verona | 83 | 89 | 95 | 109 | 98 |

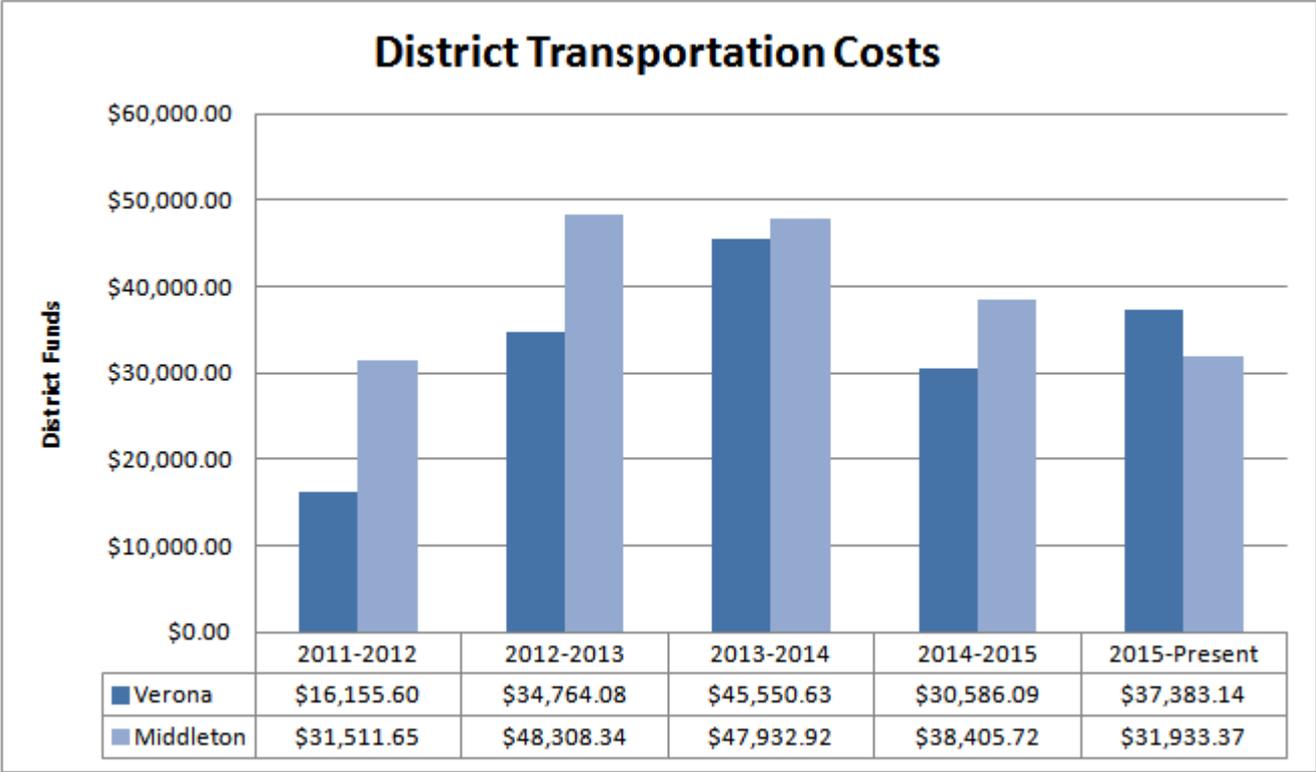
Numbers Don't Tell the Entire Story...

Numbers do not include:

- Families who are doubled up
- Families who do not want services (emerging and growing number of families who suddenly find themselves in situational poverty)
- Students who may be runaways or “couch surfing” but do not tell anyone



McKinney-Vento Transportation Costs



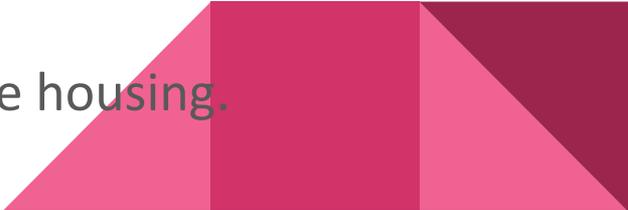
Other Transportation Issues

- Cabs will not transport students under 6 years old without a parent.
- School start and end times vary.
- Not as many options for transportation to/from rural areas
- Length of day for the student when adding transportation time.

SO...we get creative.

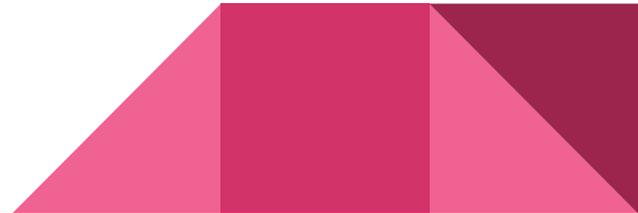
- MCPASD Bus Routes
 - Boys and Girls Club Collaboration
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Impact of Homelessness on Education:

- Chronic stress from homelessness or living in extreme poverty impacts brain development.
 - Students who are constantly worried about their environments may have a difficult time learning.
 - Each school transfer brings an average of 3-6 months of lost education.
 - Attendance issues due to lack of consistent stable housing.
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Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness:

- Ensure the student has every opportunity that a non-homeless student has for after-school activities and in-school programs to minimize impact on learning.
- School social worker meets and has regular contact with families in transition.
- Social worker links families to community resources.
- Clothing, school supplies, and support provided.
- Food dropped off or backpacked home regularly.
- Ongoing communication with parents regarding school performance.



Contact Information

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