

BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATING STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN MONTANA

MACSS

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LEGISLATION

Federal

ESSA – under Title I, Part A

McKinney-Vento – Subtitle VI, Part B

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

Plyler v. Doe

ICWA

State

MCA 20-5-101 Enrollment of Homeless Children and Youth

MCA 20-5-503 Enrollment by Caretaker Relatives

MCA 20-1-213 Transfer of School Records

MCA 41-1-402 Consent of Minor for Health Services

SB18 – Minimum diploma for educational disruptions

RIGHTS UNDER MCKINNEY-VENTO



IMMEDIATE
ENROLLMENT



FREE SCHOOL
MEALS



STAY IN THE
SCHOOL OF ORIGIN



TRANSPORTATION



PARTICIPATE IN ALL
SCHOOL
PROGRAMS



PARTICIPATE IN
EXTRA-
CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

DEFINITION
OF
HOMELESS -
4,670 STUDENTS
IDENTIFIED IN SY 20-21

Living in a shelter – 7%

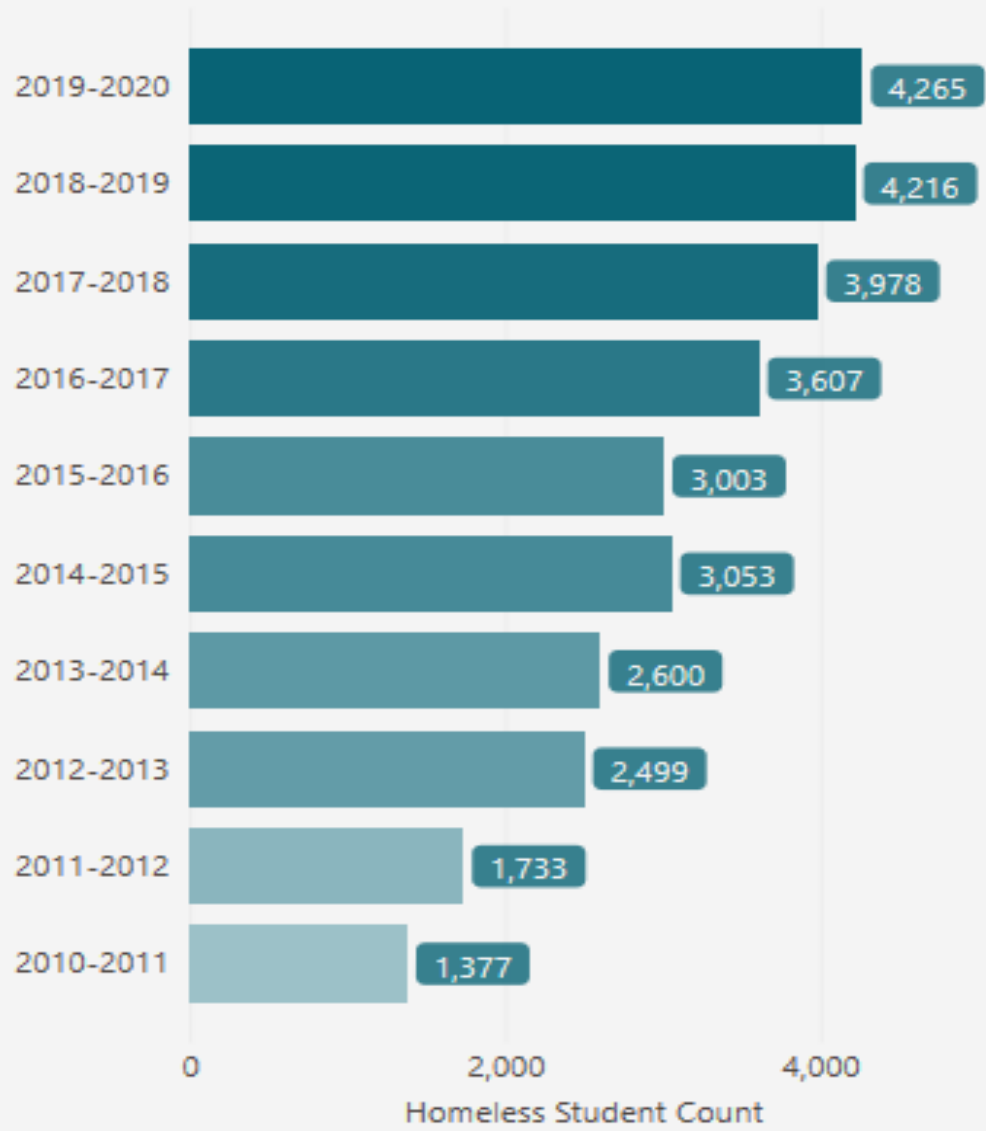
Unsheltered (or in substandard housing) – 11%

Living in a hotel/motel – 8 %

Doubled up -74%

Unaccompanied youth – 10% (651)

Homeless Student Count by School Year

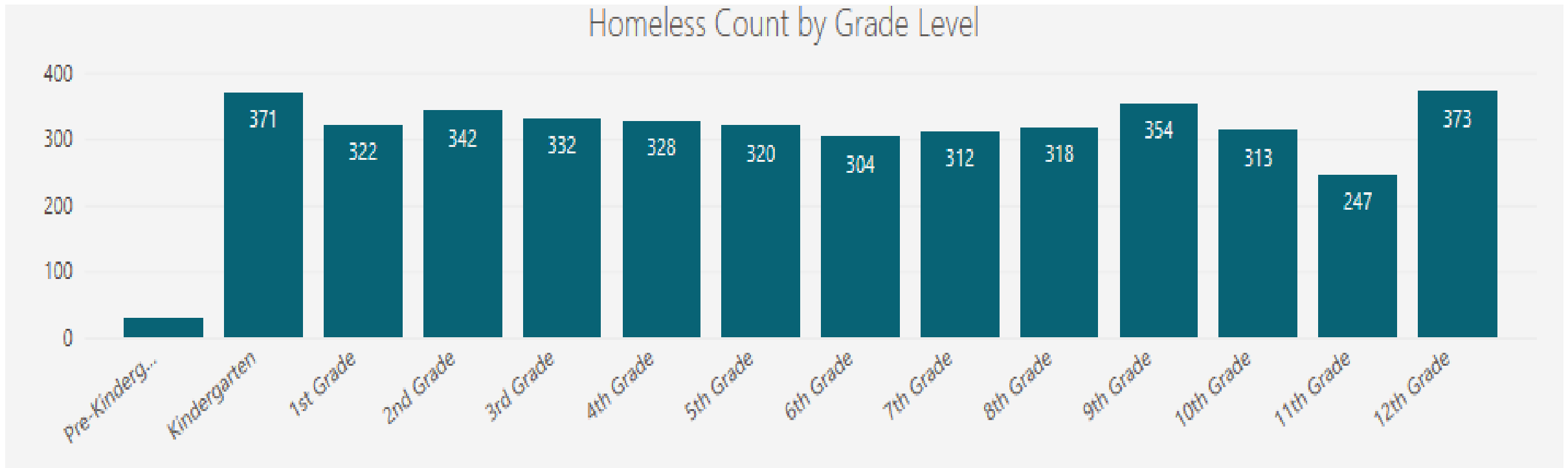


HOMELESS DATA GEMS DATA WAREHOUSE

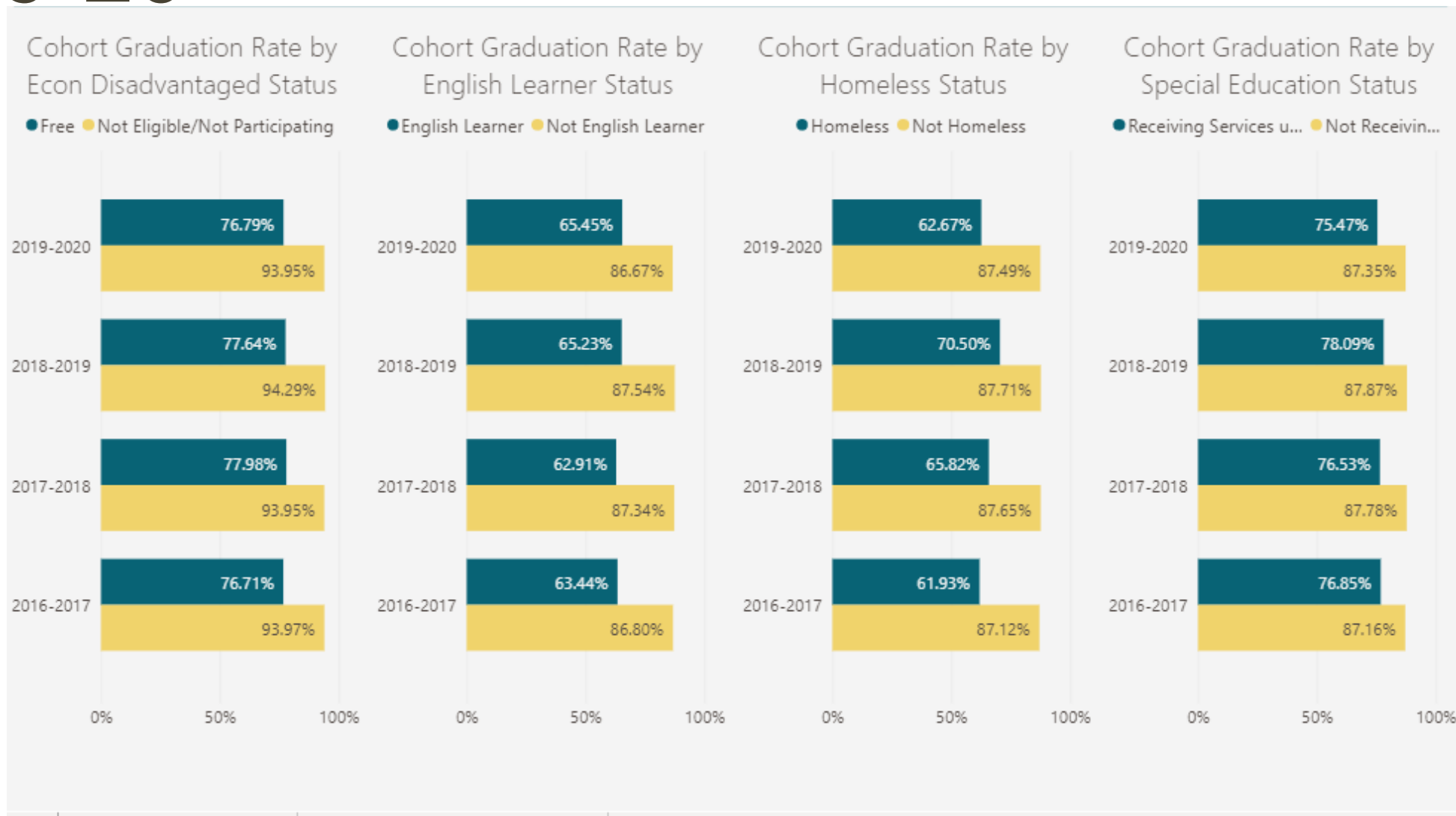
HOMELESS DATA 19-20 SCHOOL YEAR

GEMS DATA WAREHOUSE

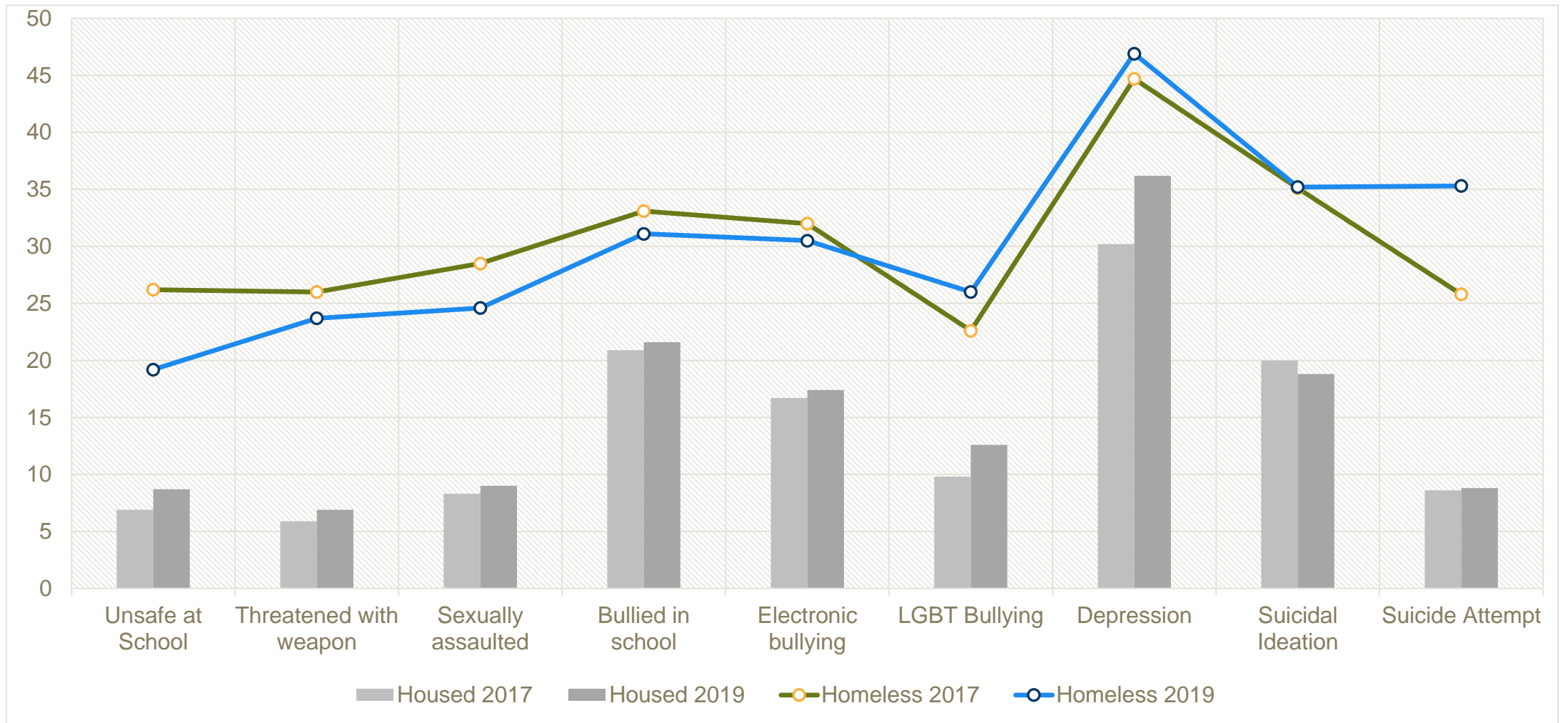
Homeless Count by Grade Level



COHORT GRADUATION RATE FOR 19-20



SELF-REPORTED RISK FACTORS



[Montana YRBS data](#)

TRENDS IN HOMELESSNESS IN MONTANA

Rising housing prices are creating homeless situations

- Renters are being pushed out when landlords raise the rent – commonly impacts low-income families
- Renters are being evicted when landlords sell homes – commonly impacts middle-income families

Where are these newly homeless families going?

- Living in campers that may be parked in a campground, at the home of a friend or relative, or on private land (may not have access to utilities)
- Doubling up – parents are sending children to live with grandparents
- Hotel/motel – parents may be sending children to double up with relatives

BUILDING A PROGRAM

01

Branding the program to fit within the culture of the school & community

02

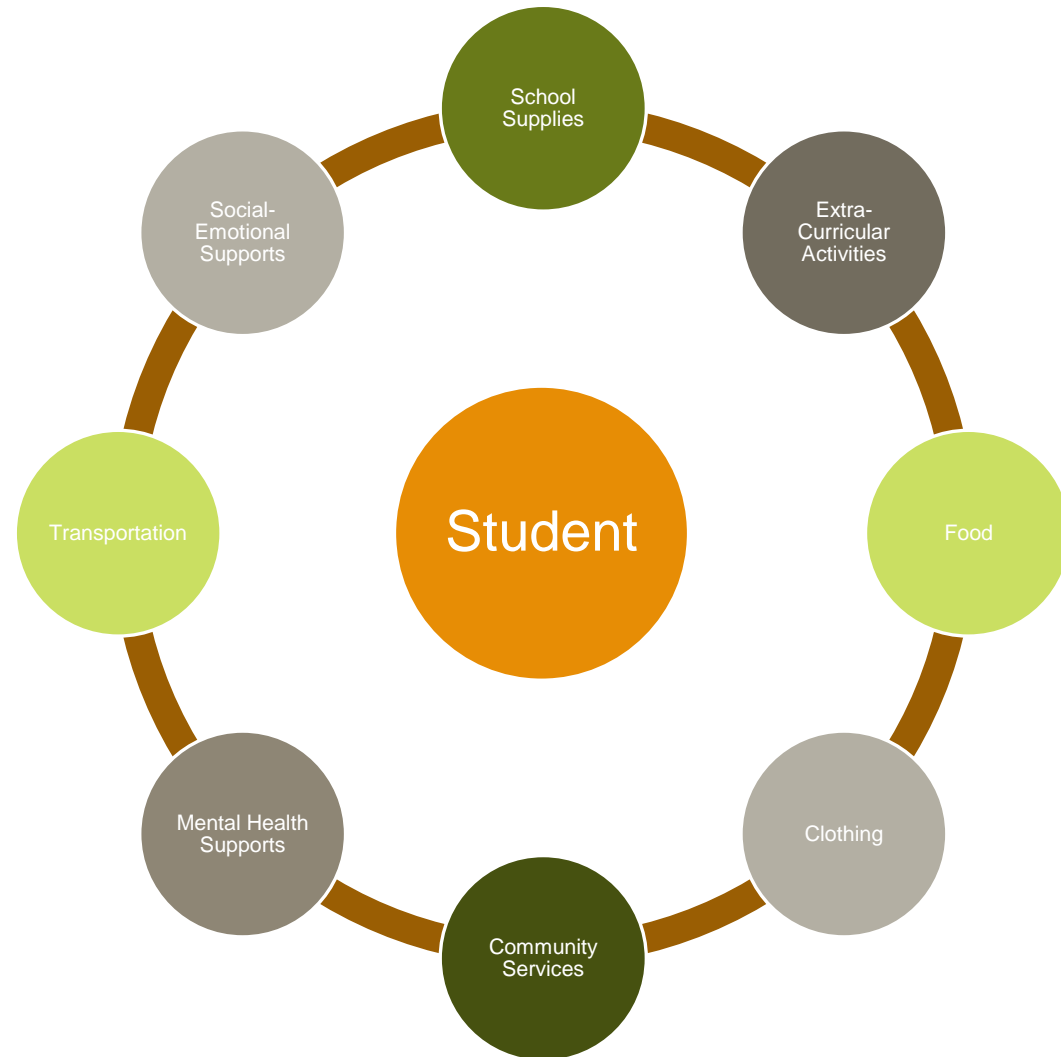
McKinney-Vento as the “framework” upon which they build a program that is tailored to meet their communities needs

03

Partnering with community agencies

PROVIDE HOLISTIC SUPPORTS

Academics are not enough.



FOOD

School meals – grab and go breakfast, breakfast in the classroom, etc.

Backpack programs

Summer meals

School-based food pantries – [Montana Food Bank Network](#)

Community-based food pantries

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Back to school drives
- School “store”
- Supply closet



Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil

by Joshua T. Dickerson

I woke myself up
Because we ain't got an alarm clock
Dug in the dirty clothes basket,
Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform
Brushed my hair and teeth in the dark,
Cause the lights ain't on
Even got my baby sister ready,
Cause my mama wasn't home.
Got us both to school on time,
To eat us a good breakfast.
Then when I got to class the teacher fussed
Cause I ain't got a pencil.



School related/required items – PE shoes and uniforms, clothing to participate in recess, clothing required for CTE courses, clothing and shoes required for extra-curriculars or athletics



Graduation caps and gowns



Other clothing items

Community clothing drive

Clothing closet

Clothing exchange

“Recycle” events

CLOTHING

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Staff training (ACES, trauma informed/aware, etc.)

Check-in, check-out programs or adult mentors

School counselors – “support groups” (anger, friendship, bullying, grief, etc.)

CSCT services

Connections to community-based mental health providers

EXAMPLES OF “BEST PRACTICE” PROGRAMS

- ❖ Kalispell – H.E.A.R.T. Locker (McKinney-Vento and YHDP)
- ❖ Butte – Bulldog Outfitters
- ❖ Browning - āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p - “We help each other” (McKinney-Vento and YHDP)
- ❖ Bozeman – trauma trained programs

FUNDING SOURCES - OPI

Title I, Part A – Required set-aside of \$35 per identified student

McKinney-Vento – competitive grant funding

ESSER I, II, and III – homeless students are a subgroup that may be provided targeted services

ARP-HCY I – districts with current subgrants or “significant concentrations” may be eligible

ARP-HCY II – \$5,000 minimum to apply, districts should seek to join a consortium to access the greatest benefit from small amounts of funding

Perkins (Career and Technical Education) – must recruit and retain homeless students

FUNDING SOURCES - COMMUNITY

YHDP – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grants through the Montana Continuum of Care, funded through Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Browning, Kalispell, Hays-Lodgepole, Dawson Community College (and communities across Montana)

Faith-Based Organizations

Service Organizations – Kiwanis, Elks, etc.

Private Philanthropic Organizations – Gianforte Family Foundation, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

Other non-profits – Hopa Mountain, Feed the Children, Soles for Souls, etc.

RESOURCES

[OPI Homeless Education website](#)

- Laws, Regulations, and Guidance
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Resources for Districts (brochures and posters)
- Scholarships and Financial Aid
- ARP-HCY Resources and Information

[National Center for Homeless Education](#)

[School House Connection](#)

[National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#)



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CONTACT INFORMATION