

Supporting Higher Education Access and Success



Wisconsin Education for Homeless Children and Youth Conference
October 2022



While we gather, please share your name and district/organization in the chat!

Meet Your Presenters



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Today's Roadmap

- Exploring post-secondary education pathway options with students
- Partnering with school counselors
- Smoothing the transition after high school
- Navigating financial aid
- Preparing for post-secondary education support
- Q&A and discussion throughout





Exploring Post-secondary Education Pathway Options

The Evolving Postsecondary Landscape

- The postsecondary landscape increasingly is providing learners with flexible and stackable credential options
 - College degrees (2-year and 4-year)
 - Non-degree credentials
 - Certificates
 - Apprenticeship certificates
 - Industry certifications
 - Occupational licenses



What Do You Think?



Please share in the chat or over audio:

1. Why is it good to have a variety of degree and non-degree credential pathways available to learners?
2. What might be some of the advantages of different degree and non-degree credential pathways?

Types of Credentials

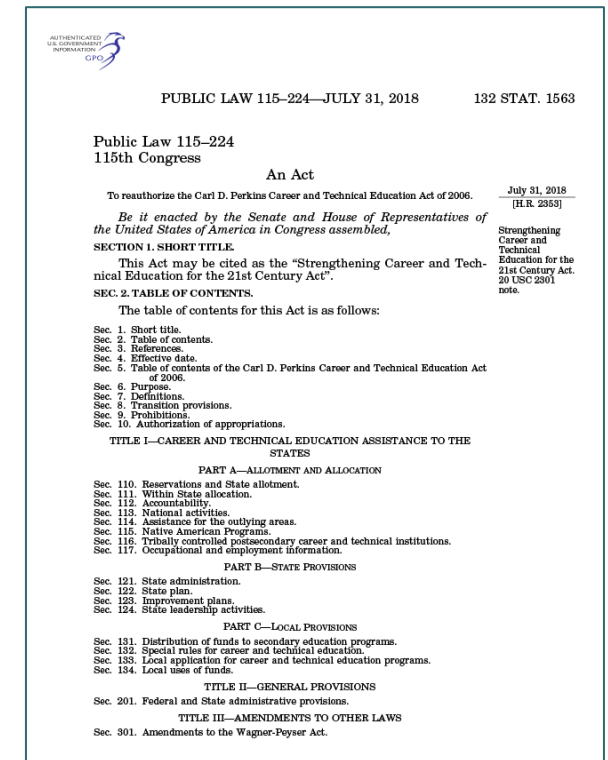
Credential	Examples
Postsecondary degrees are educational degrees a person attains when completing the necessary degree requirements at a postsecondary institution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate of Science in Nursing• Bachelor of Arts in Journalism• Juris Doctor (J.D.)
Certificates are credentials awarded by an education institution based on completion of all requirements for a program of study, including coursework and tests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Programming• Culinary Arts• Paramedic
Apprenticeship certificates are credentials earned through work-based learning and postsecondary earn-and-learn models.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aviation Operations on the Ground• Construction Management• Plumbing and Heating• Vehicle Body and Paint

Types of Credentials

Credential	Examples
<p>Industry certifications are credentials awarded by a certification body (not a school or government agency) based on an individual demonstrating, through an examination process, that they have acquired the designated knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform a specific occupation or skill.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Management• HVAC• Supply Chain Professional
<p>Licenses are credentials that permit the holder to practice in a specified field. An occupational license is awarded by a government licensing agency based on pre-determined criteria. The criteria may include some combination of degree attainment, certifications, certificates, assessment, apprenticeship programs, or work experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounting• Cosmetology• Real Estate• Nursing

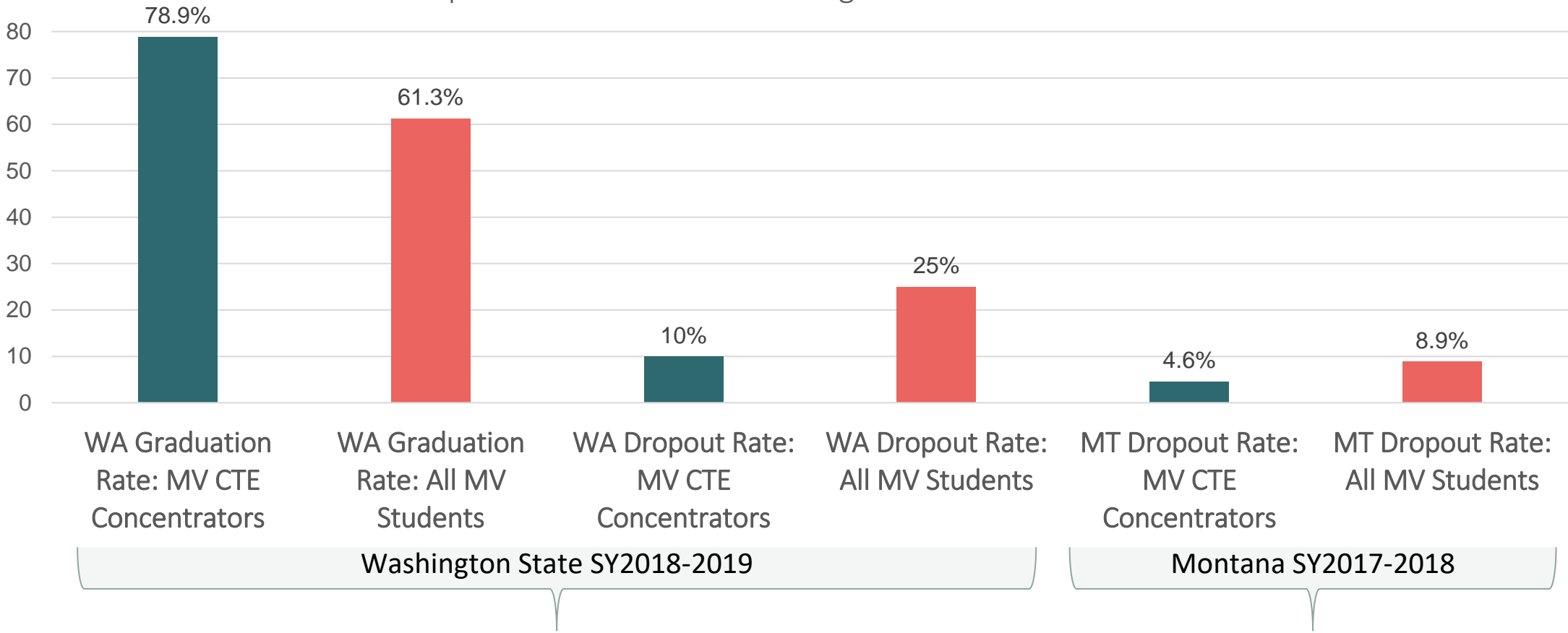
Perkins Career And Technical Education Act

- [Perkins V](#) designates *individuals experiencing homelessness and youth who are in, or have aged out of, the foster care system* as **special populations**.
- This designation requires **intentional focus** in the areas of state CTE plans, local CTE applications and plans, CTE funding usage, and CTE data and accountability.
- This designation also paves the way for **greater partnership** in support of populations who can benefit from CTE pathways but may face unique barriers to CTE access and success.



Students Experiencing Homelessness and CTE

Graduation and Dropout Rates for Homeless (McKinney-Vento/MV) Students
Unpublished data from Washington State and Montana





Partnering with School Counselors

The Role of the School Counselor

School counselors must advise students experiencing homelessness and help them prepare and improve their readiness for college.

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)K)

Local liaisons and school counselors should ensure that all homeless high school students receive information and **individualized counseling** regarding college readiness, college selection, the application process, financial aid, and the availability of on-campus supports.

U.S. Department of Education, [Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#), p. 51

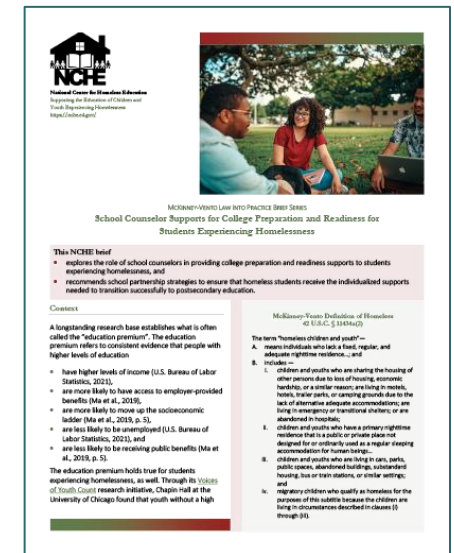
School Counselor Supports

School counselors can support students experiencing homelessness by

- Collaborating with the local homeless education liaison, including through joint training
- Supporting students with credit recovery options
- Providing students with waivers for college entrance exams and applications fees
- Helping students access documentation that may be needed to apply for college
- Providing information on sources of financial aid
- Exposing students to local postsecondary institutions
- Helping students select a postsecondary institution that is a good fit
- Providing a warm handoff to postsecondary campus-based supports
- Helping parents/caregivers know what to expect from the postsecondary environment and feel equipped to support the educational goals of their children

Resources

- [Improving Equity in and Access to Quality CTE Programs for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
(NCHE brief authored in partnership with Advance CTE)
- [Supporting In-School and Out-of-School Youth Experiencing Homelessness Through Education and Workforce Partnerships](#)
(NCHE brief)
- [*School Counselor Supports for College Preparation and Readiness for Students Experiencing Homelessness*](#)
(NCHE brief)
- [*Education Goals and Supports: A Guided Discussion Tool*](#)
(NCHE tool)



**Questions?
Comments?**

Covid's Impact on Pursuing Postsecondary Education



- US Colleges and universities have [lost about 1.3 million students](#) over the past two years
- [85% of students](#) who left college during the pandemic say they **want to return back to school** but cannot enroll or stay in due to costs, stress, academic unpreparedness, and family/work obligations
- Early data of FAFSA completion from 2022 show a [rebound of about 4.6%](#), but still falling short of pre-pandemic FAFSA completion rates

What do Young People Need to Be Successful in School?

Youth with lived experience said:



Connection to **positive, supportive adults**

Stability - difficult to meet educational needs when you can't meet basic needs

Help navigating **financial aid**

Knowledge of existing **campus support programs and resources** (social media, word of mouth, visibility: posters, flyers)

Transition from High School

- College preparation starting before senior year
- Graduation coaches
- McKinney-Vento campus tours
- Summer bridge programs
- Homeless higher education liaisons
- Financial aid



Unaccompanied

Not in the physical custody of
a parent or guardian



Homeless

Lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing

OR

Self-supporting AND at the risk of being homeless

When a student pays for his own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing AND when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate; for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing

NOTE: A student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.

When filling out the FAFSA, unaccompanied homeless youth OR unaccompanied youth who are self-supporting and at the risk of being homelessness are considered independent students.

Independent students do not need to include parental information on the FAFSA

Students who are experiencing homelessness with their families are **dependent students**, and will need to include parental information on the FAFSA.

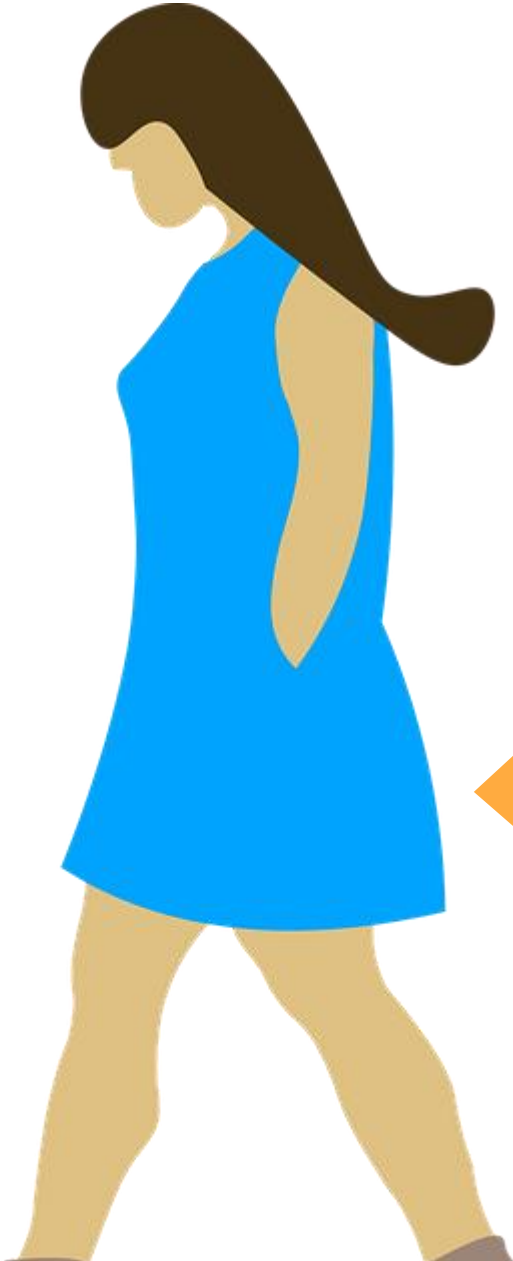
Scenarios

Damien is a high school senior whose mother moved in with her boyfriend after being evicted from their home.

Unfortunately, there wasn't room for Damien and he was left with nowhere to go. Damien called his pastor to ask for help. His pastor said that he had a spare bedroom and that Damien can stay with him so he can finish high school.

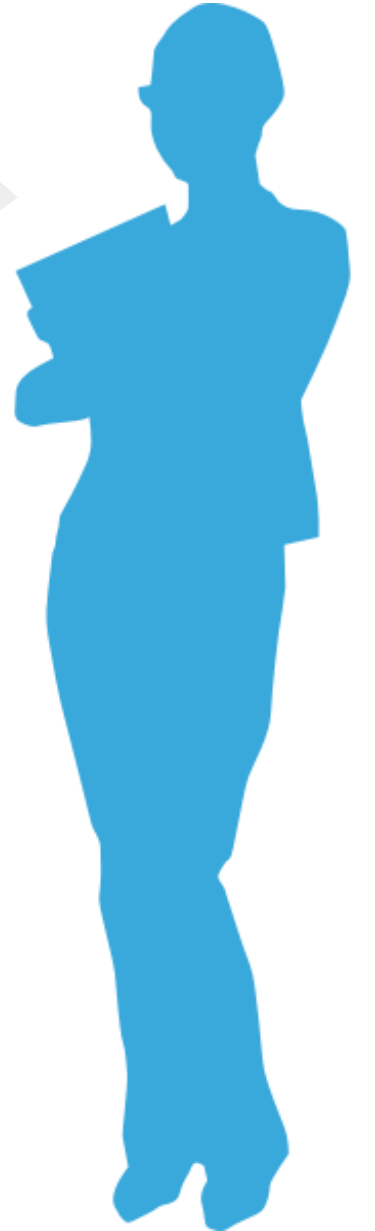
Damien moved in and even though he doesn't think his pastor would kick him out, he knows his pastor can choose to ask him to leave at any time. Is Damien an unaccompanied homeless youth?



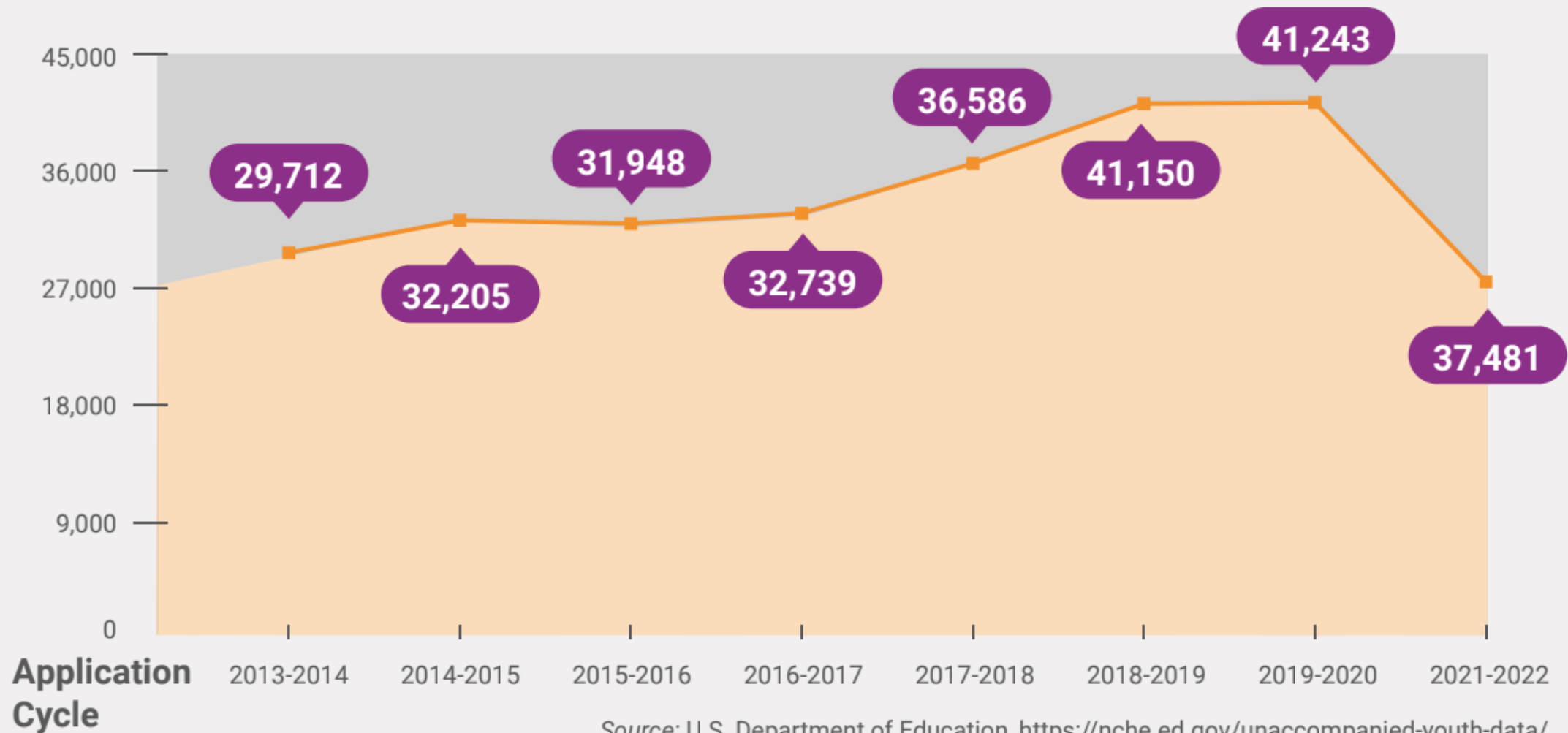


Jessica is a senior in high school. She is applying for the FAFSA and hopes to attend college next year. However she and her family were recently evicted from their apartment complex. She reaches out to you for help. Would Jessica be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth?

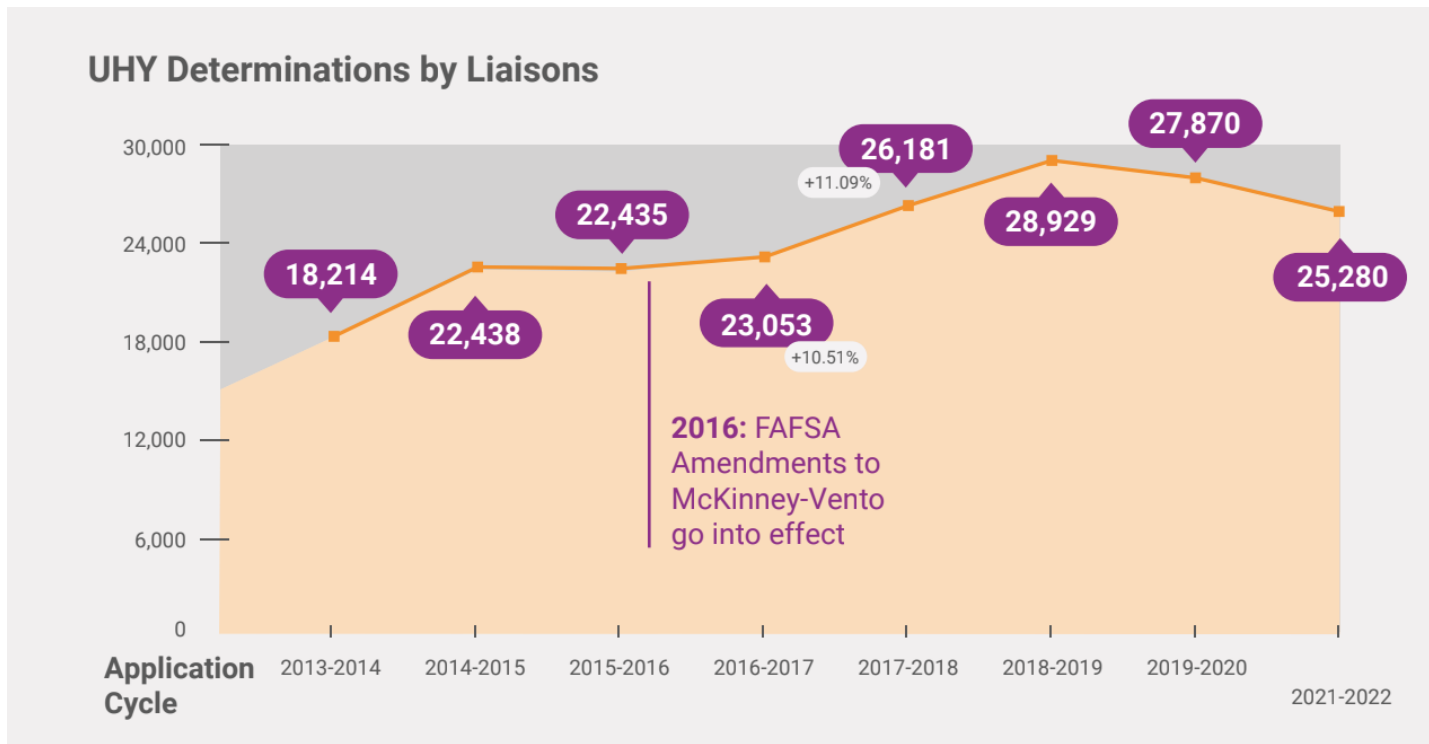
Jane is a junior in high school. She does not have a strong relationship with her parents. Her parents have a history of drugs and Jane and her younger brother have experienced abuse in the past. Jane's boyfriend's family has offered to take Jane and her brother in for the rest of the year. Is Jane an unaccompanied homeless youth?



Applicants Determined to be Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



In the 2020-2021 academic year, the number of unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) FAFSA determinations declined by almost 10% from the prior year (2019-2020).



Wisconsin UHY Numbers

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
544	523	465	461	557	629	596	522

Financial Aid

- FAFSA is available now!
 - Use this [email template](#) to remind students
- Provide unaccompanied homeless youth with determination letters
 - Use this [sample form letter](#)
 - You can continue to write letters from subsequent years
- [FAFSA mentors](#) ([webinar](#))
- Remind students that the FAFSA needs to be filled out every year
- Encourage students to familiarize themselves with the financial aid office
- Partner with financial aid
- [Wisconsin Tuition Promise Program](#) - Fall 2023
 - [Bucky's Tuition Promise](#)
- Scholarships and emergency aid

The SchoolHouse Connection Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program

Helping Students Experiencing Homelessness Get To and Through Higher Education



**\$2000
Scholarship Award**



**Trip to a National Awards
Ceremony**



**Trip to Washington, DC
One Year Later**



**One on One Support from
Staff**



**National Network of Peers
and Mentors**

Eligibility:

- Residing in the United States (undocumented applicants are eligible)
- Born On or After October 15, 2002
- Beginning College for the First Time in 2023
 - Four Year, Community College, or Trade School
- Experienced Homelessness in the Last Six Years

DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

[**Link to apply**](#)

FAFSA Simplification Update: What We Know

What We Know

- Big changes from the FAFSA for homeless and foster youth were supposed to be implemented for the 23-24 FAFSA. Unfortunately, ED has not made these changes
- Questions on the FAFSA will remain the same as in prior years
- We recommend that ED revise the online FAFSA for 23-24 immediately to ensure that it does not conflict with the new law
- We're working with our champions on the Hill to make changes on the FAFSA later in October/early November

What You Need to Know

- Provide unaccompanied homeless youth with a determination letter
- Financial aid administrators **MUST** accept your determination letter
- You can continue to write determination letters for unaccompanied homeless youth as long as you believe you have enough information to make a determination
- FAFSA renewals for UHY - we hope that next year once you make a determination, students will be presumed to be an independent student and not include parental information

College Support

- Dedicated support program/homeless higher education liaisons
- Campus housing
 - On: priority housing, emergency housing + meal plans, year-round housing
 - Off: host homes, partnerships with hotels/motels, institutions that have residence halls, college-focused shelter, where are there rooms in the community
- Food banks/pantry/basic needs hub
- Peer mentoring
- Meal swipes
- Lending library
- Shower and laundry access
- Clothing closet
- Mental Health
- Technology
- Child care and resources for parenting students
- Transportation



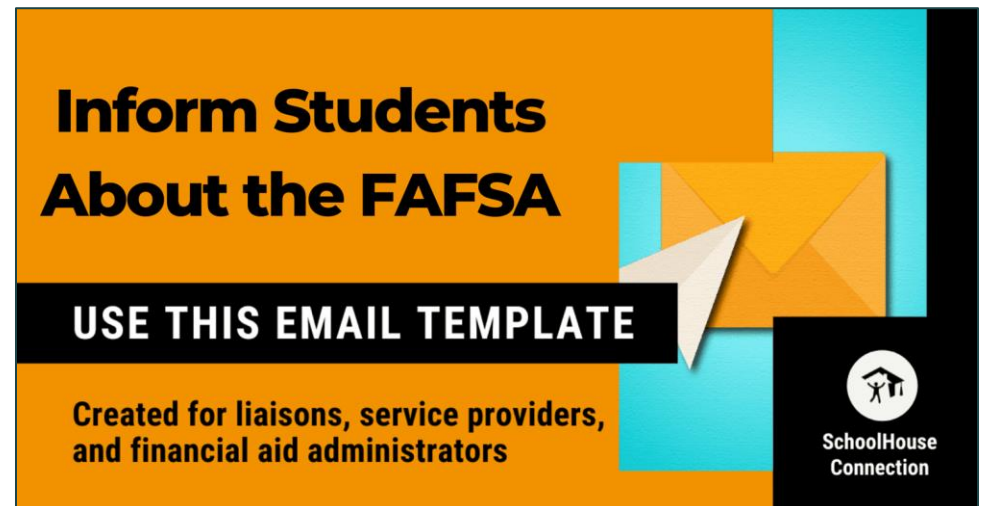
Advocacy

- Federal Policy
 - [Higher Education for Homeless and Foster Youth](#)
 - [Fostering Success in Higher Education](#)
- [State policy](#)
 - Homeless higher education liaisons
 - Housing Priority and Support programs
 - Tuition/fee waivers or in-state tuition
 - FAFSA completion



Resources

- [SHC Higher Education Webpage](#)
- [SHC FAFSA Webpage](#)
 - [Email Template](#)
 - [Sample Form letter](#)
- [SHC Youth Leadership Scholarship](#)





**Questions?
Comments?**

Thanks for Joining!



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