

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

F-2

Meeting Date: November 8, 2011

Item Title: Presentation on National Homeless Youth Awareness Month Information

Item Type: Information

BACKGROUND: November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Alameda Unified School District follows the McKinney-Vento Act, a federal law that deals with education of public school children and youth experiencing homelessness. This act ensures children and youth who do not have permanent housing can go to school and preschool regardless of their current living arrangements.

Tonight, AUSD Student Services Director, Kirsten Zazo, and AUSD McKinney-Vento Administrator, Vickie Smith, will be presenting to the Board about the program implemented in AUSD.

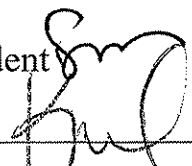
FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

AUSD Guiding Principles: 1. All students have the ability to achieve academic and personal success.

Submitted by: Sean McPhetridge, Assistant Superintendent

Approved for Submission to Board of Education


Kirsten Vital, Superintendent

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

November 8, 2011

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence & Equity For All Students

McKinney-Vento Law

McKinney-Vento is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools.

- (1) Each State educational agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.
- (2) In any State that has a compulsory residency requirement as a component of the State's compulsory school attendance laws or other laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths.

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ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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McKinney-Vento Law (continued)

McKinney-Vento is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools.

- (3) Homelessness alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.
- (4) Homeless children and youths should have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

Definition of “homeless”

As specified in the statute, the term “homeless” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The definition includes:

Children and Youths:

who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping ground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.

Definition of “homeless” (continued)

As specified in the statute, the term “homeless” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The definition includes:

Children and Youths :

who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Children and Youths:

who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

Alameda

In California there are 288,233 identified homeless youth.

Alameda is fortunate to be 1 of 160 school districts awarded a grant for its McKinney-Vento program. Unfortunately, this year all McKinney-Vento grant funding to school districts were cut 60% nationwide.

In Alameda, we have over 100 students who have declared themselves without permanent residence and receive direct services from our Family Liaison, Vickie Smith. While in previous years we calculated using affidavit information primarily to identify far greater numbers of homeless and transitioning families, we now use more reliable and accurate information for data that is presented tonight.

By confirming details with families on affidavits, we have determined that there are hundreds fewer than previously calculated.

Alameda (continued)

In California there are 288,233 identified homeless youth.

These families may be temporarily living with family members, friends or staying in local shelters, transitional housing, hotels, motels and/or cars. Through this grant funding we are able to provide these families with assistance in:

- School registration, backpacks, school supplies, free breakfast/lunch, transportation, after school care, local resources education, and the funding of extracurricular activities.

Alameda (continued)

In California there are 288,233 identified homeless youth.
McKinney-Vento students attend schools across the island.

AHS (8)	ASTI (1)	Earhart (4)	Edison (1)	EHS (20)
Haight (10)	LMS (8)	Lum (3)	Otis (3)	Paden (9)
Ruby Bridges (20)	Washington (6)	WMS (10)	WCDC (8)	Total 111

Community Involvement

Thank you for your commitment to all of the students in Alameda!
With the help of many school district staff, city residents, individuals, churches, and school organizations, we have continued to provide necessary services for our students regardless of their status.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support our families in transition .

- Special thanks to Christina Strena for her continued work this past summer organizing our back pack and school supply drive.
- Special thanks to Jim Franz for donating sleeping bags to Ruby Bridges.
- Special thanks to the Boys and Girls Club for waiving the fees for our homeless families.
- A very special thanks to Vickie Smith who works hard to help our transitional families everyday.

If you have questions regarding McKinney-Vento law or would like to make a donation, please call the Student Services Office at (510) 337-7072.