



Illinois McKinney–Vento Homeless Education

From the Beginning: Laying the Foundation for School Success

Sharing A Vision Conference

September 29, 2015

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Vicki Hodges, McKinney–Vento Homeless Program Illinois State Board of Education



Agenda for today...

- Become familiar with important McKinney-Vento Act concepts, including:
 - Student eligibility
 - School selection
 - Enrollment
 - Transportation
 - Barriers homeless families face
- Engage in discussion and Q&A



The McKinney–Vento Act

- Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.)
- Reauthorized in 2001 by Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act
- Establishes the definition of *homeless* used by schools
- Ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness have immediate and equal access to public education, including preschool
- Provides for educational access, stability, and support to promote school success
- Needed to address the unique barriers faced by many homeless students

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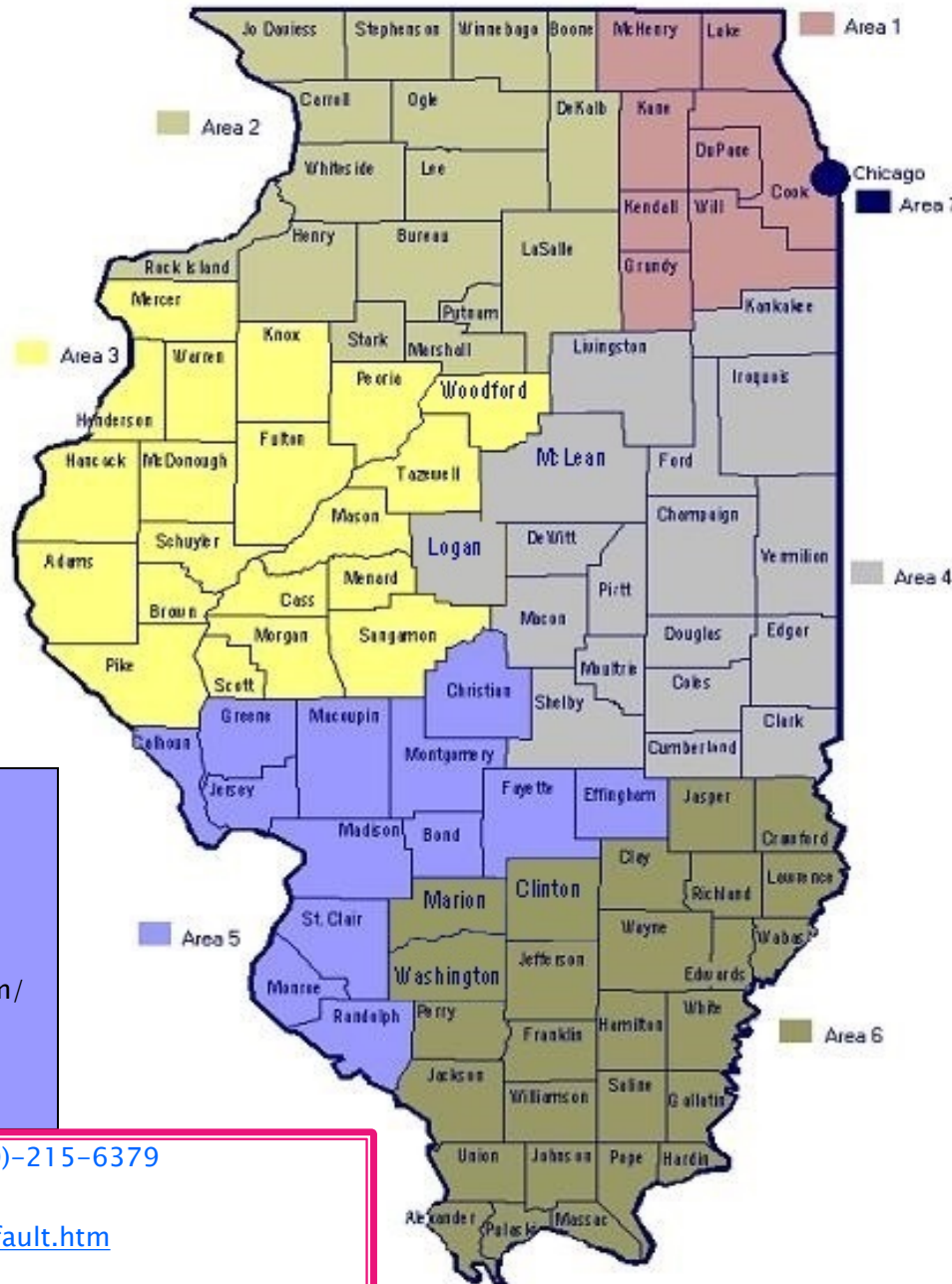
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Homeless Information Hotline (800)-215-6379

ISBE Homeless Website -
<http://www.isbe.net/homeless/default.htm>

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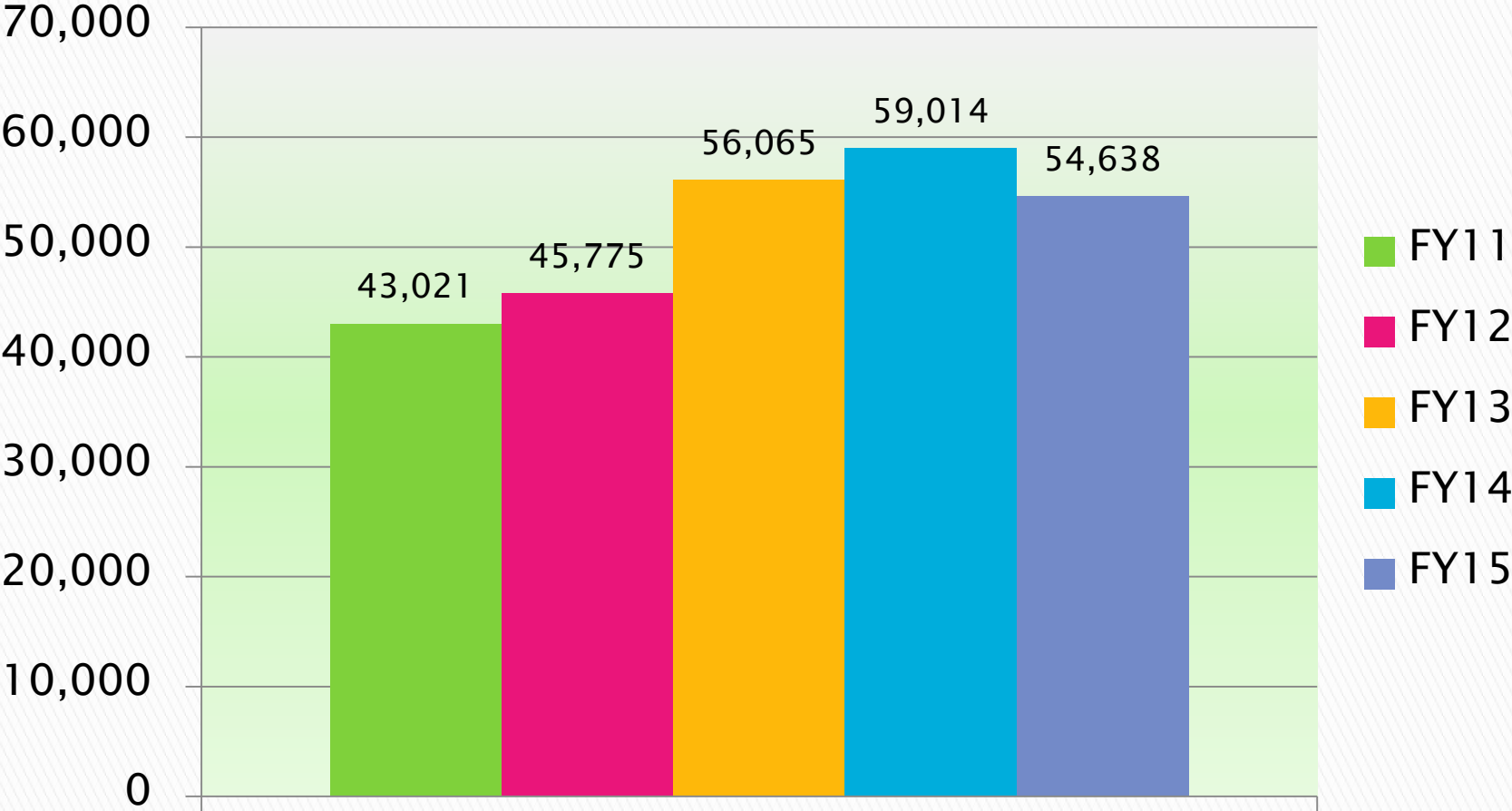
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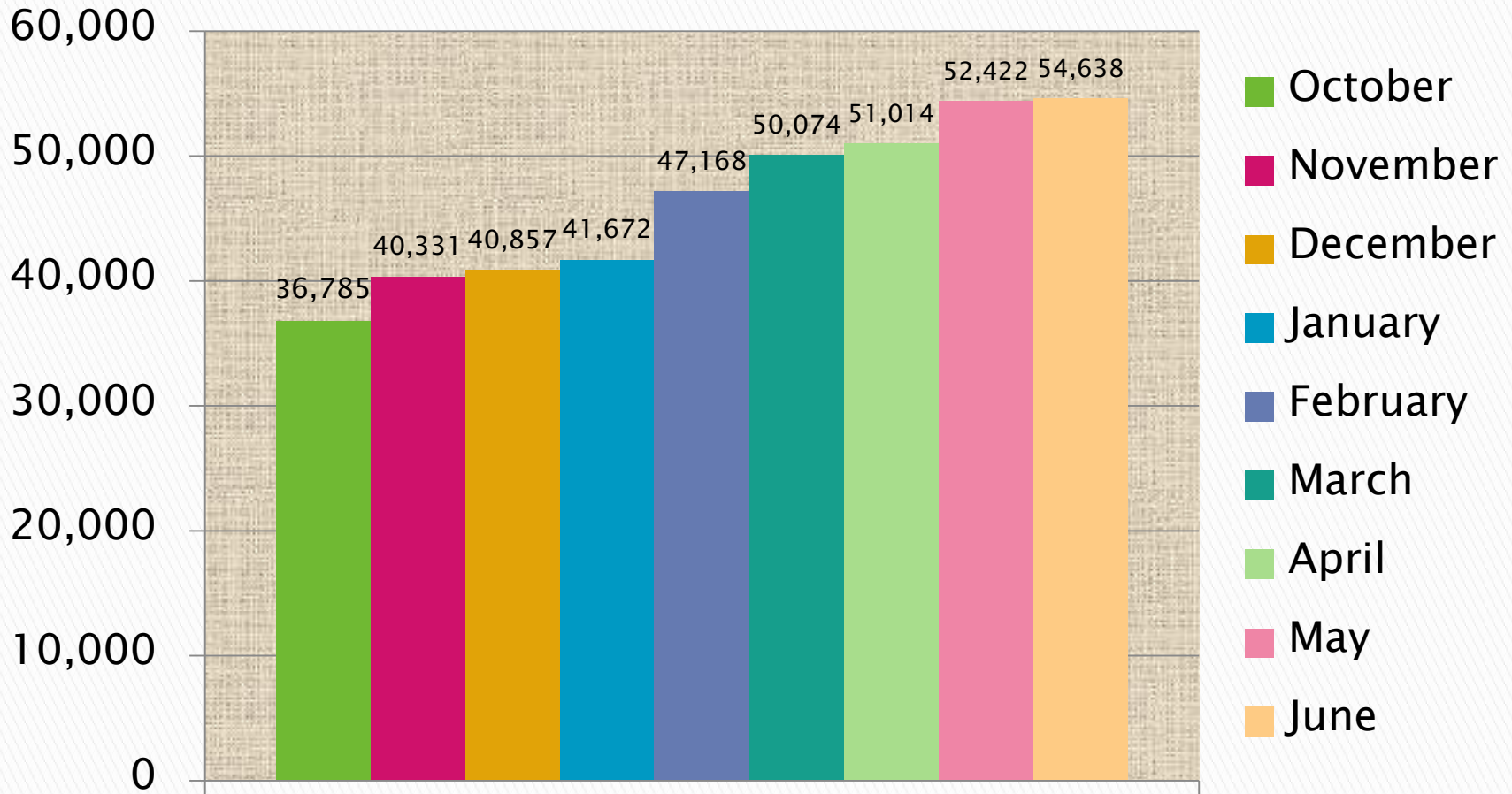
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PK-12 Homeless Counts (IL)



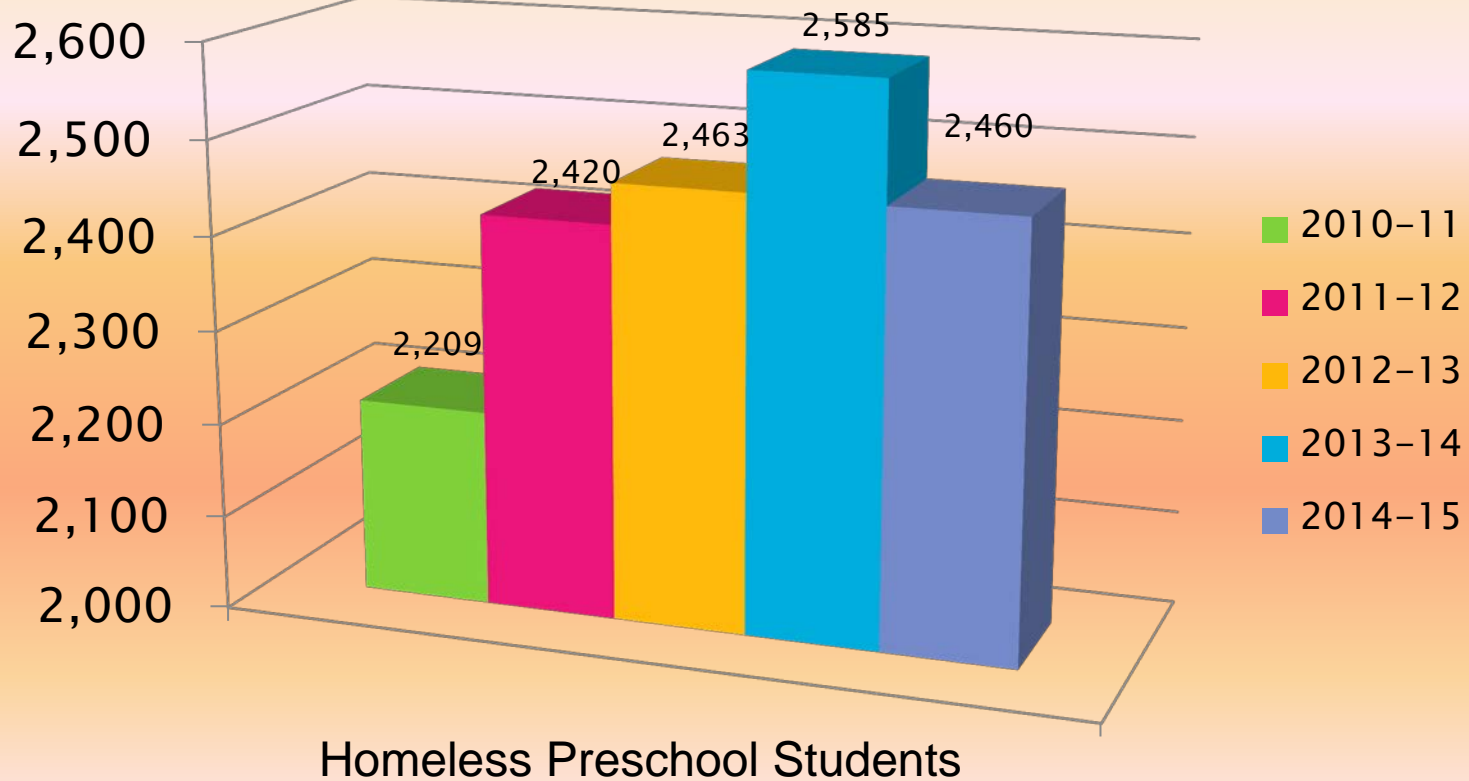
Homeless preschool students reported in Student Information System (SIS)

FY 15 PK-12 State Homeless Counts (IL)



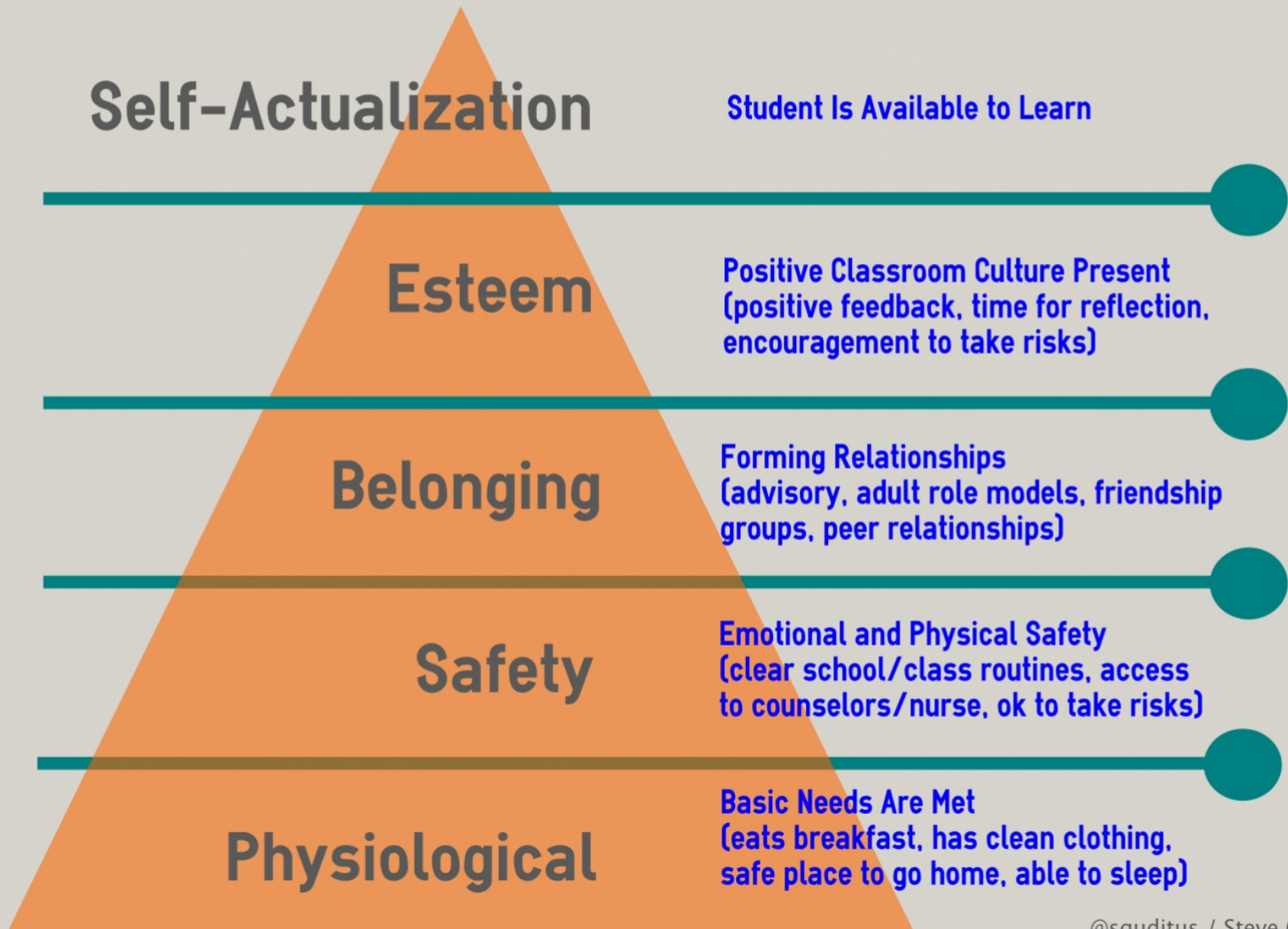
Homeless preschool students reported in Student Information System (SIS)

Homeless Preschool Students Served



Homeless preschool students reported in Student Information System (SIS)

Maslow's Hierarchy of School Needs



MK-V Definition of Homeless...

- Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including—
 - Sharing the housing of other persons (“**doubled up**”) due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 - Living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations;
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - Abandoned in hospitals;
 - Awaiting foster care placement;



MK-V Definition of Homeless...

- Primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- Defined as “migratory children” who are living in the above circumstances;
- Unaccompanied youth who are living in the above circumstances.



“Fixed, Regular, and Adequate”

- Fixed
 - Securely placed; not subject to change or fluctuation
 - A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- Regular
 - Normal, standard
 - A regular residence is one which is used on a regular (i.e. nightly) basis.
- Adequate
 - Sufficient for a specific requirement; lawfully and reasonably sufficient
 - An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.



The Dynamics of Doubling-Up:

- ▶ Doubled-up arrangements often serve as temporary shelter, but may not last or may place the family or youth in danger
- ▶ A shelter stay is not always an option:
 - Shelters don't exist in every community
 - Shelters often are full
 - Shelter policies may create barriers
 - Shelters may generate safety concerns
 - Shelters may have stay limits

Educational Right to...

- Attend school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there.
- Continue in the school they last attended before becoming homeless (school of origin) or the school they last attended, if that is the parent's or guardian's choice and is feasible.
- Receive transportation to the school they last attended before their family became homeless or the school they last attended, if a parent or guardian requests such transportation.
- Attend school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.



Educational Rights Cont.

- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any documents required for enrollment.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs comparable to that provided to children who are not homeless.




Barriers Homeless Families Face...

- High Mobility
- School selection
- Lack of documentation for enrollment
- Transportation
- Lack of Awareness of MK-V
- Lack of Available Slots (pre-school programs)



Challenges Homeless Children Face . . .

- Lack of structure, routine, and stability
 - Trauma
 - Loss
 - Lack of access to food
 - Lack of health care
 - Adolescent mothers
 - Inappropriate living conditions
 - no play space, overcrowded, unhealthy, over-stimulation or under-stimulation
 - Stressed attachment to caregivers
 - Invisibility
- 



Making Homelessness Real . . .

Resources

- National Center for Homeless Education
www.serve.org/nche
- NCHE's preschool page:
www.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc_preschool.php
- McKinney-Vento full text and Policy Guidance:
www.serve.org/nche/m-v.php
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY)
www.naehcy.org
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP)
www.nlchp.org

Additional Resources

- Most Frequently Asked Questions
http://www.naehcy.org/dl/naehcy_faq.pdf
- Project HOPE's publications page:
<http://www.wm.edu/hope/infobrief/infobrief.html>
- *Helping Young Children Grow & Learn: A Guide for Families & Shelter Providers*
- *Using the Best That We Know: Supporting Young Children Experiencing Homelessness*
- *Unlocking Potential! What Families and Shelters Need to Know About Homelessness and Special Education 2003*
- History of McKinney-Vento
<http://web.archive.org/web/20071203073025/http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/McKinney.pdf>



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