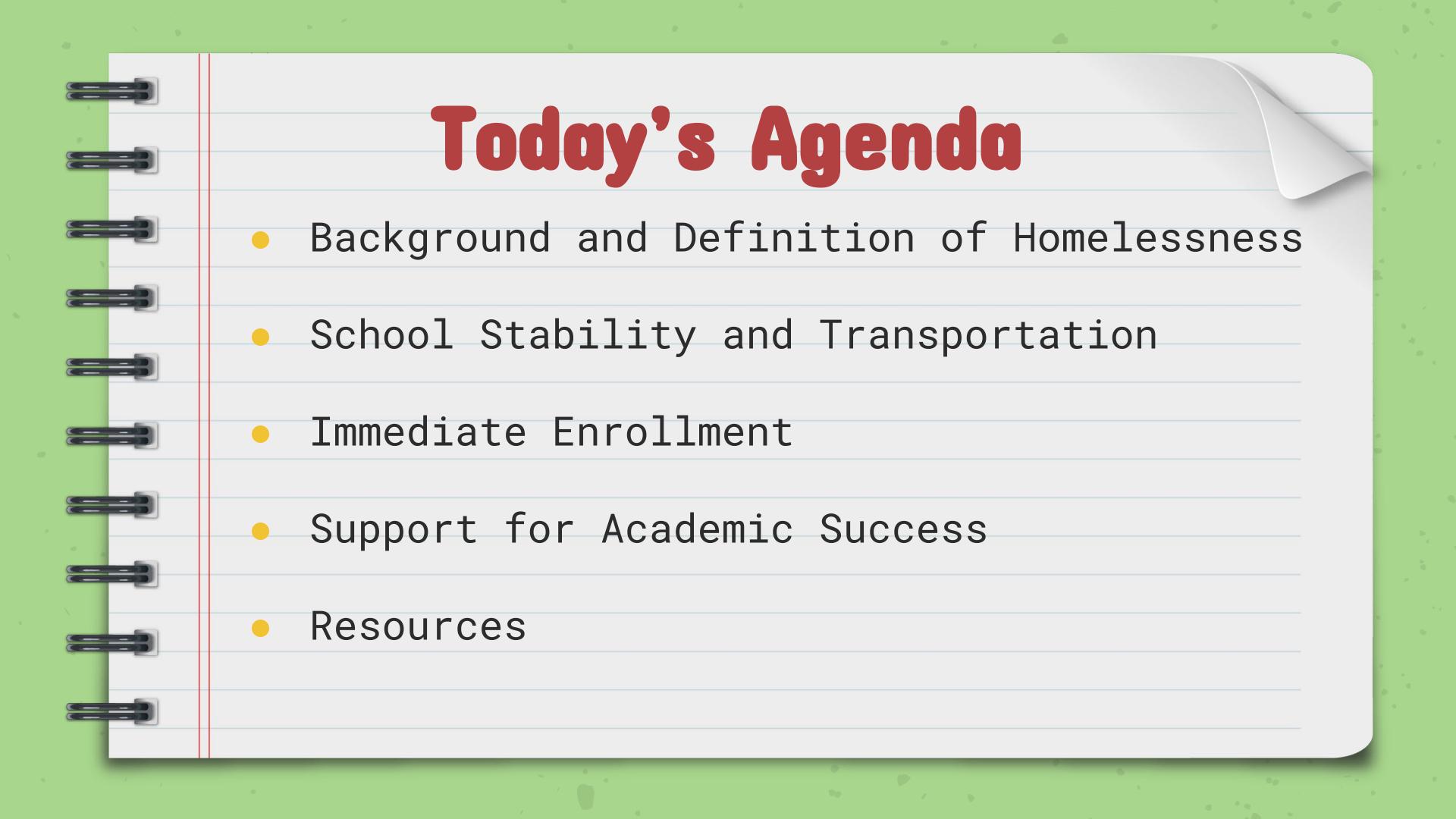


# The McKinney-Vento Act Back to School Review

2022-2023



# Today's Agenda

- Background and Definition of Homelessness
- School Stability and Transportation
- Immediate Enrollment
- Support for Academic Success
- Resources



## Definition: Who is eligible?

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.

# Definition : Who is eligible?



Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**11434a(2)**

## Determining Eligibility Brief:

[https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/det\\_elig.pdf](https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf)

- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or regularly used as accommodations.
  - Doubled-up, hotels, and motels.
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
  - What is substandard? Check utilities; infestations; mold; dangers.

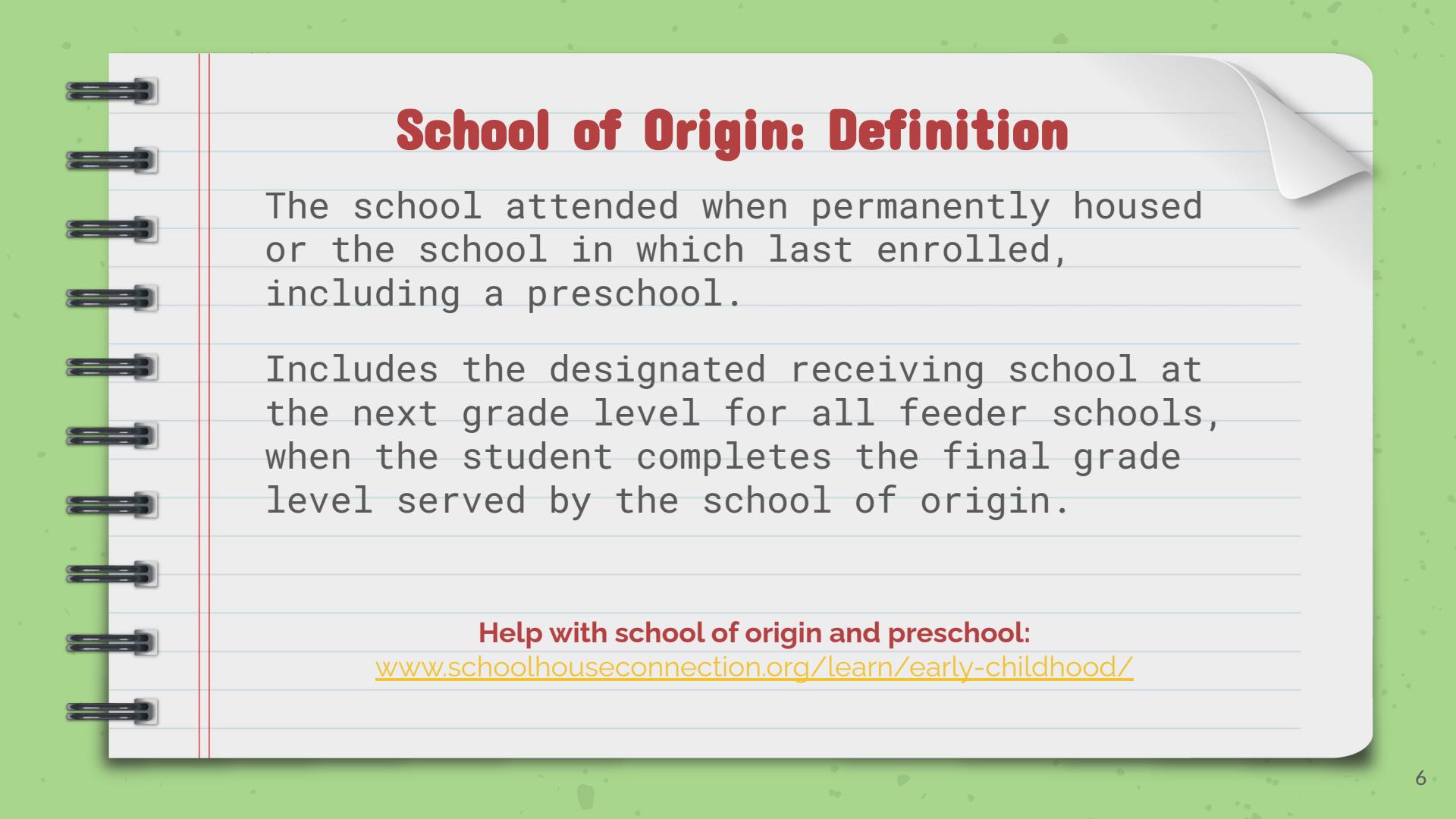


## Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

### Definition:

A child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.





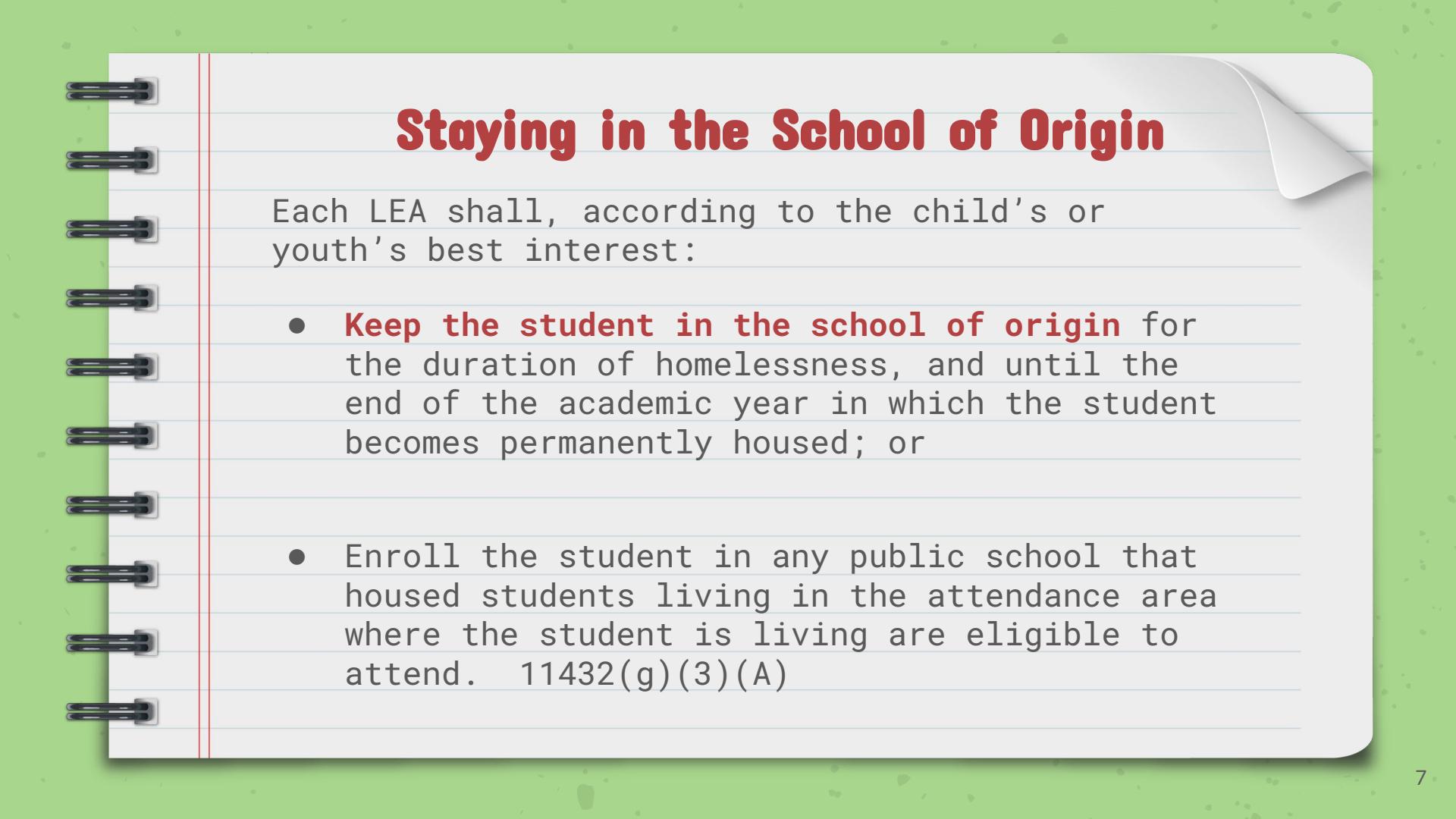
## School of Origin: Definition

The school attended when permanently housed or the school in which last enrolled, including a preschool.

Includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools, when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

**Help with school of origin and preschool:**

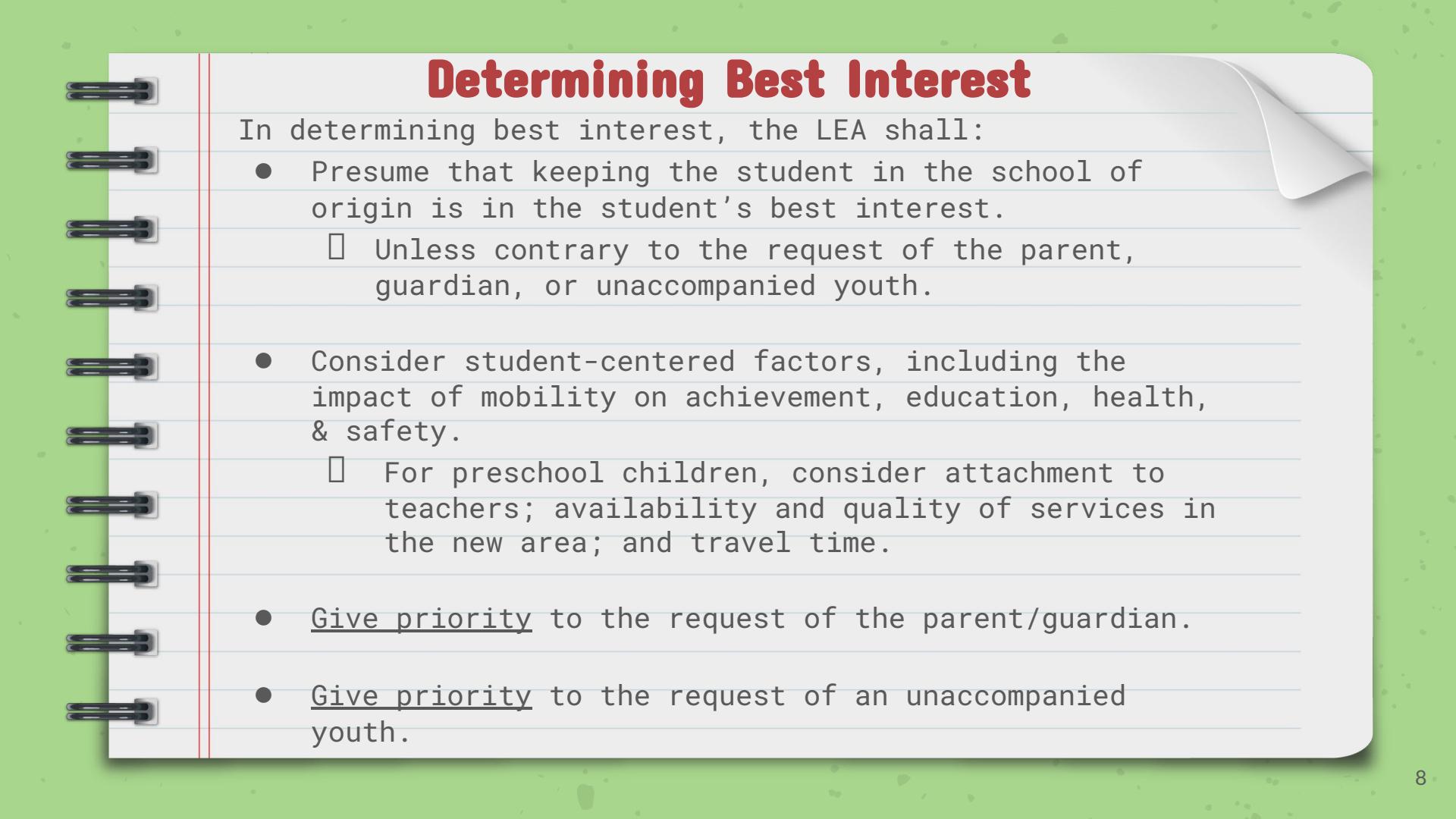
[www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/early-childhood/](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/early-childhood/)



## Staying in the School of Origin

Each LEA shall, according to the child's or youth's best interest:

- **Keep the student in the school of origin** for the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed; or
- Enroll the student in any public school that housed students living in the attendance area where the student is living are eligible to attend. 11432(g)(3)(A)



# Determining Best Interest

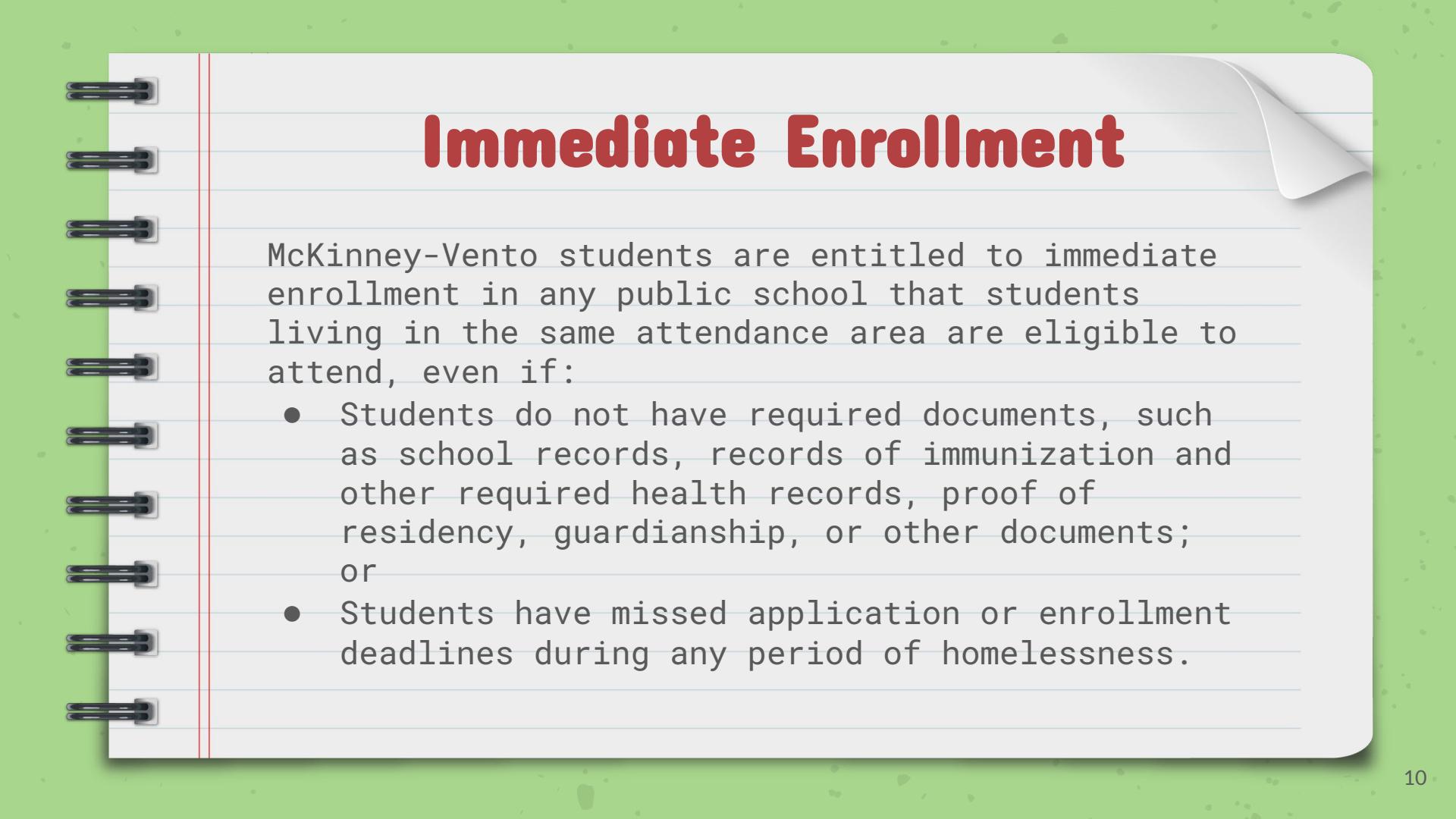
In determining best interest, the LEA shall:

- Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest.
  - Unless contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- Consider student-centered factors, including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, & safety.
  - For preschool children, consider attachment to teachers; availability and quality of services in the new area; and travel time.
- Give priority to the request of the parent/guardian.
- Give priority to the request of an unaccompanied youth.



# Transportation to the School of Origin

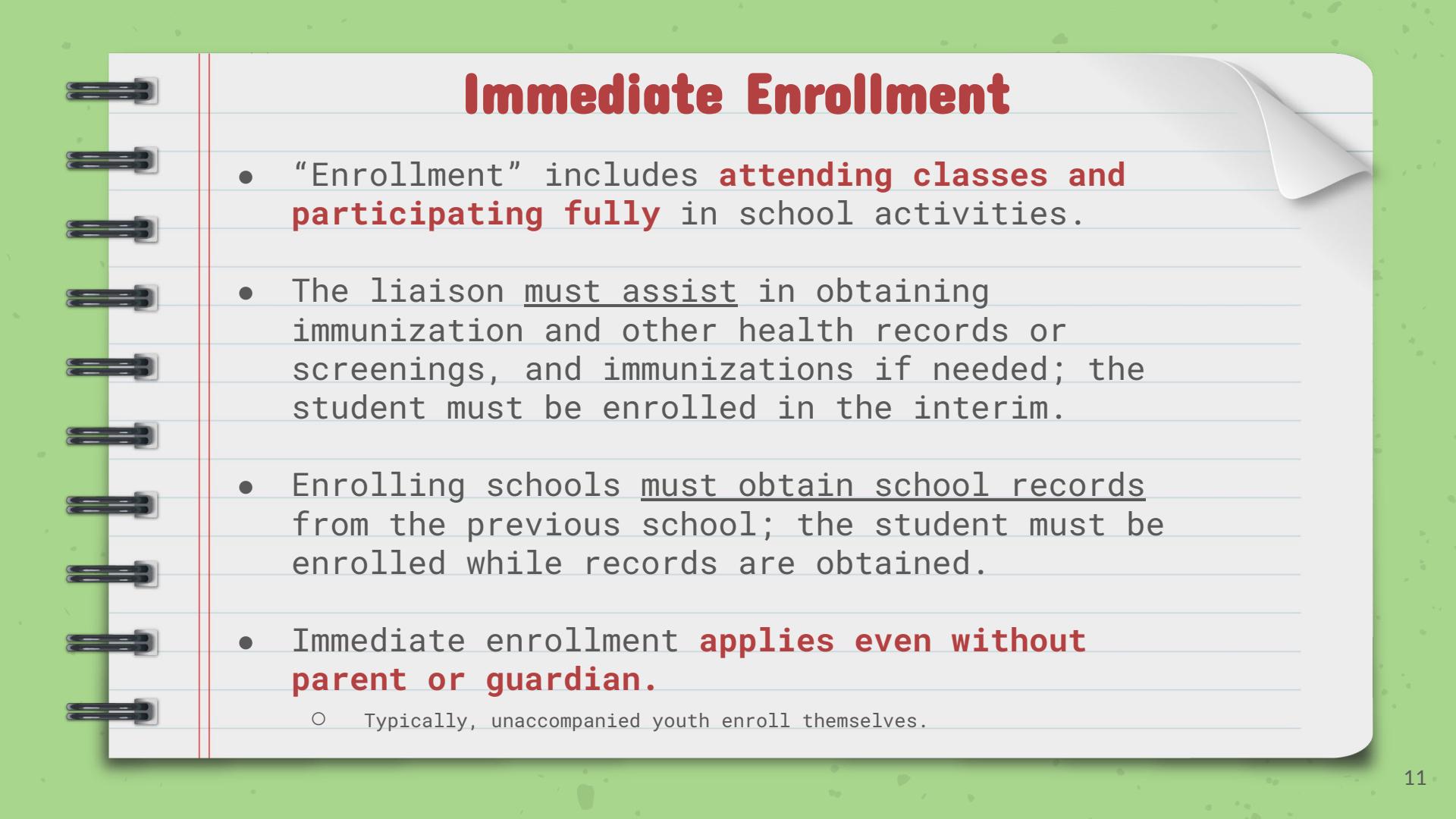
- LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school of origin until the end of the year when the student obtains permanent housing, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth).
  - Even if transportation is not typically provided.
- If staying in the same LEA, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation to the school of origin.
- If crossing LEA lines, both LEAs must determine how to divide the responsibility and share the cost, or they must share the cost equally.



# Immediate Enrollment

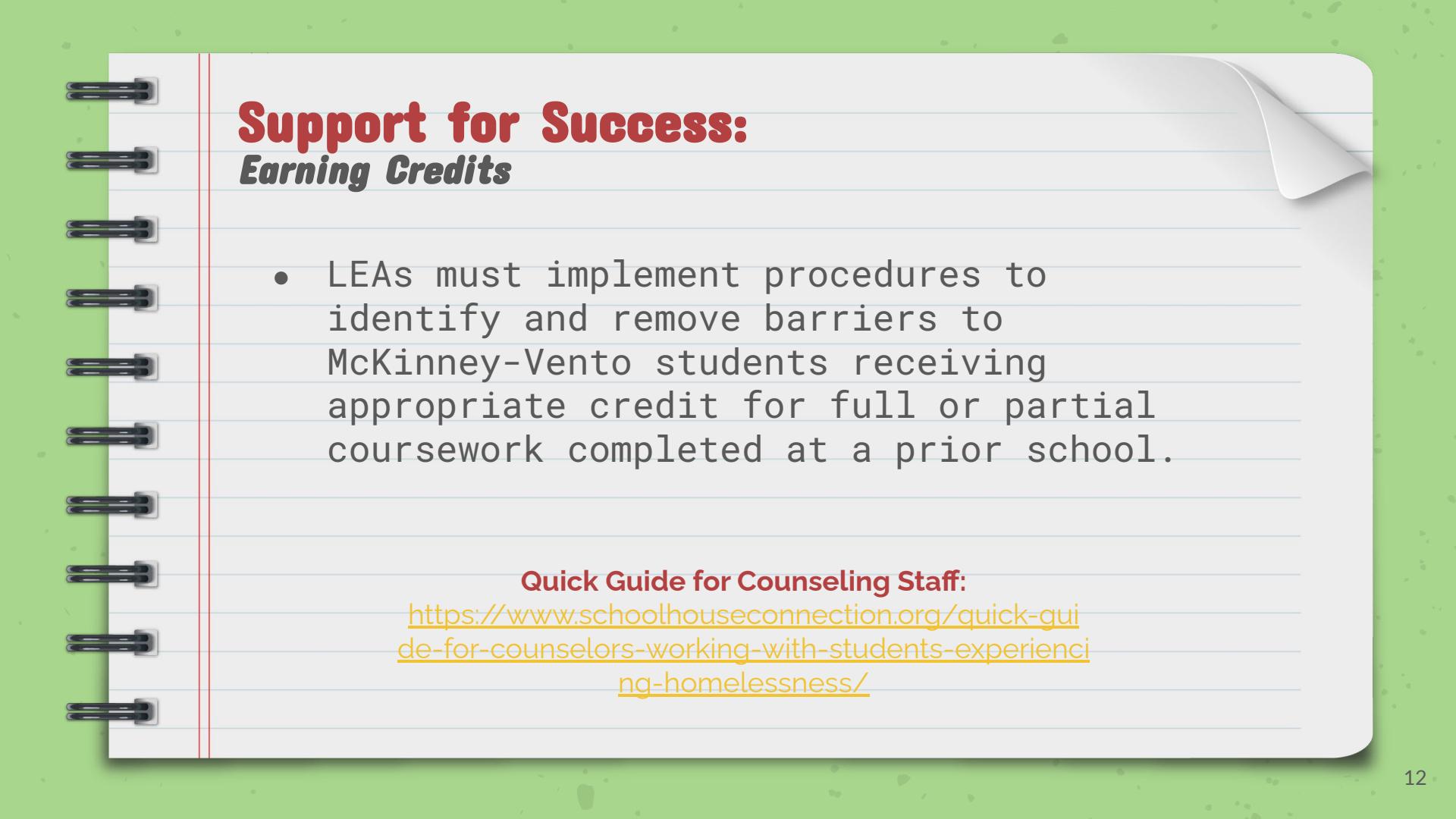
McKinney-Vento students are entitled to immediate enrollment in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, even if:

- Students do not have required documents, such as school records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, guardianship, or other documents; or
- Students have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.



# Immediate Enrollment

- “Enrollment” includes **attending classes and participating fully** in school activities.
- The liaison must assist in obtaining immunization and other health records or screenings, and immunizations if needed; the student must be enrolled in the interim.
- Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school; the student must be enrolled while records are obtained.
- Immediate enrollment **applies even without parent or guardian.**
  - Typically, unaccompanied youth enroll themselves.



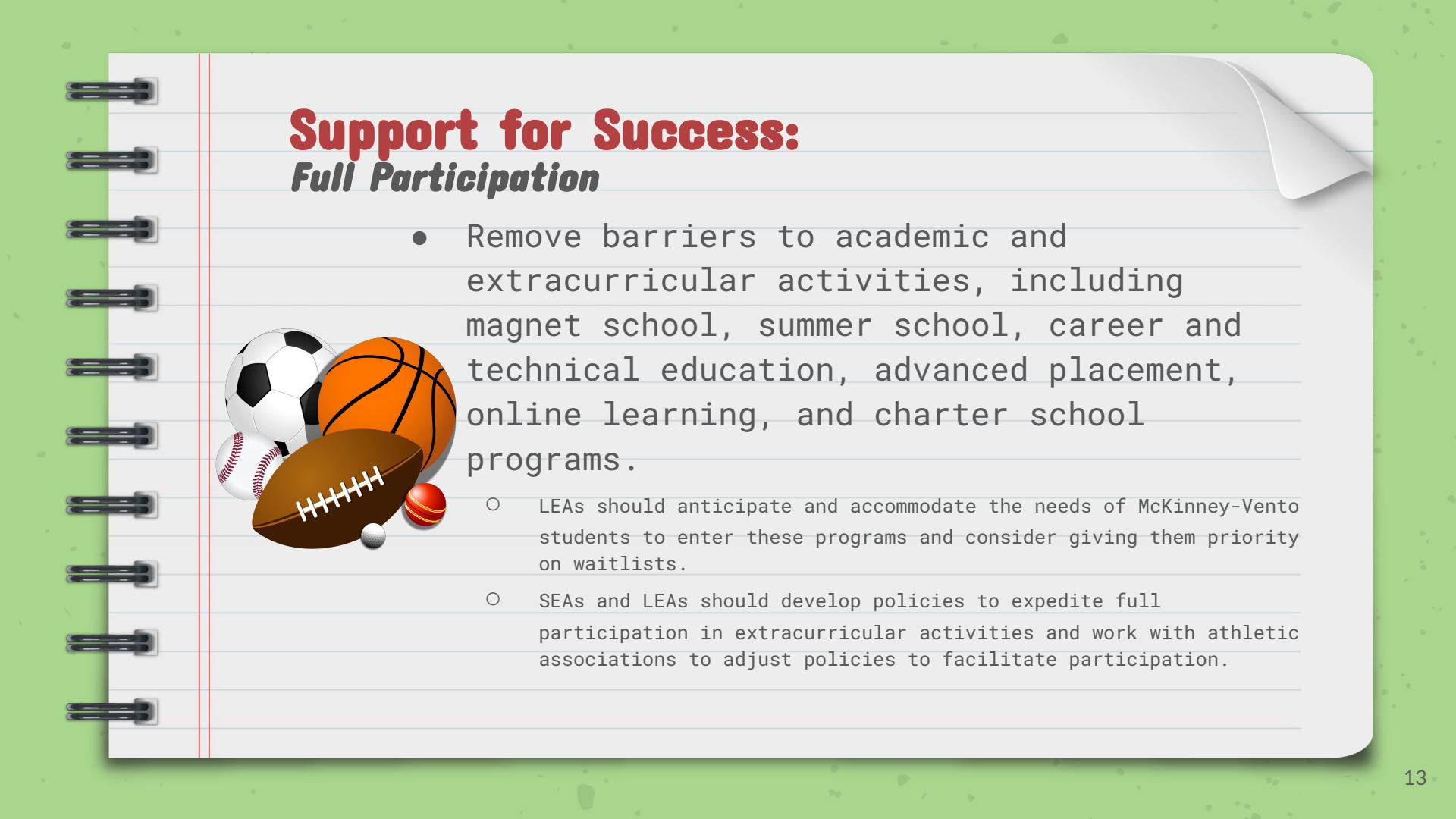
# **Support for Success:**

## ***Earning Credits***

- LEAs must implement procedures to identify and remove barriers to McKinney-Vento students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework completed at a prior school.

### **Quick Guide for Counseling Staff:**

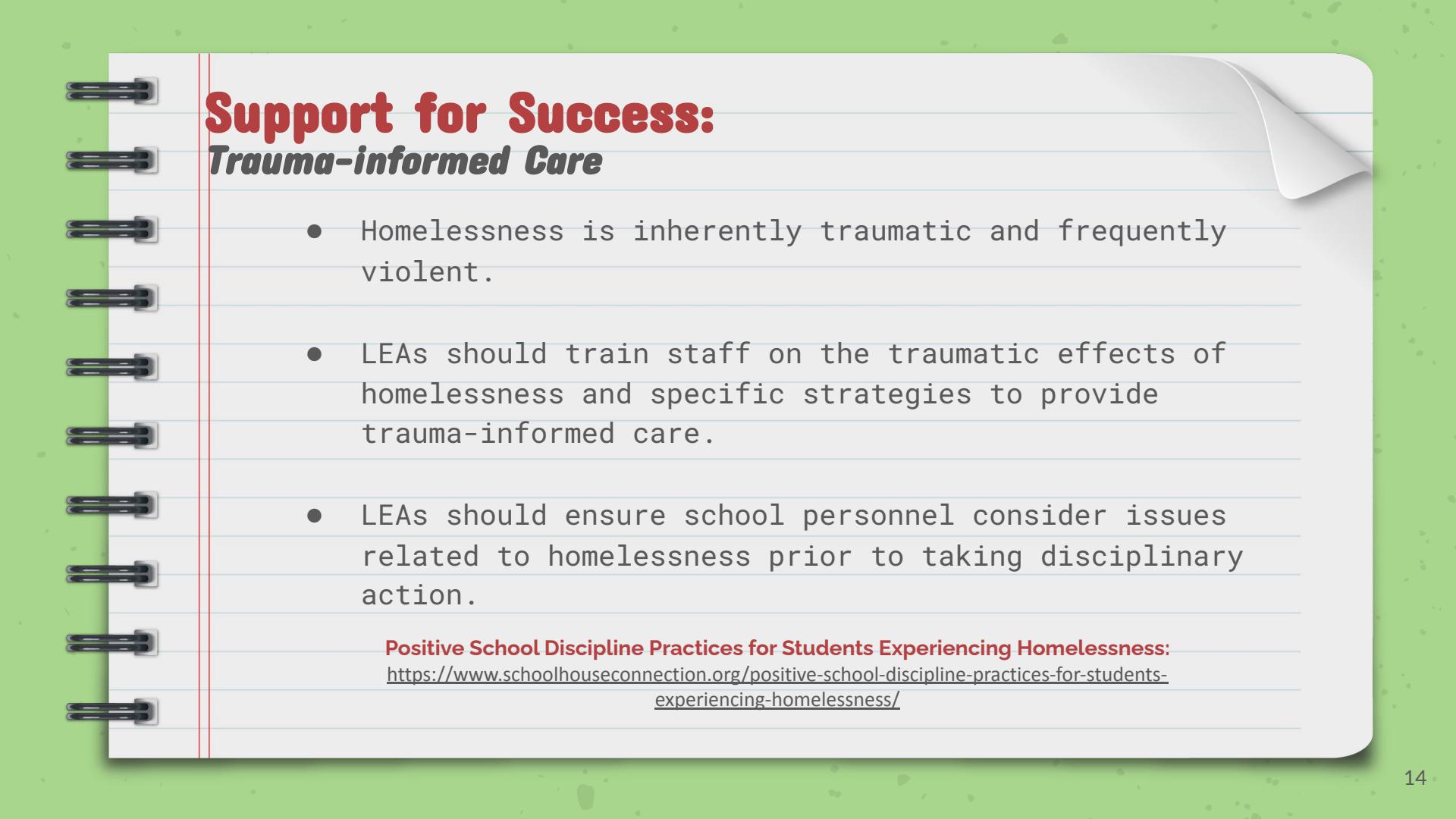
<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/quick-guide-for-counselors-working-with-students-experiencing-homelessness/>



## **Support for Success: *Full Participation***



- Remove barriers to academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, online learning, and charter school programs.
  - LEAs should anticipate and accommodate the needs of McKinney-Vento students to enter these programs and consider giving them priority on waitlists.
  - SEAs and LEAs should develop policies to expedite full participation in extracurricular activities and work with athletic associations to adjust policies to facilitate participation.



# **Support for Success:**

## **Trauma-informed Care**

- Homelessness is inherently traumatic and frequently violent.
- LEAs should train staff on the traumatic effects of homelessness and specific strategies to provide trauma-informed care.
- LEAs should ensure school personnel consider issues related to homelessness prior to taking disciplinary action.

**Positive School Discipline Practices for Students Experiencing Homelessness:**

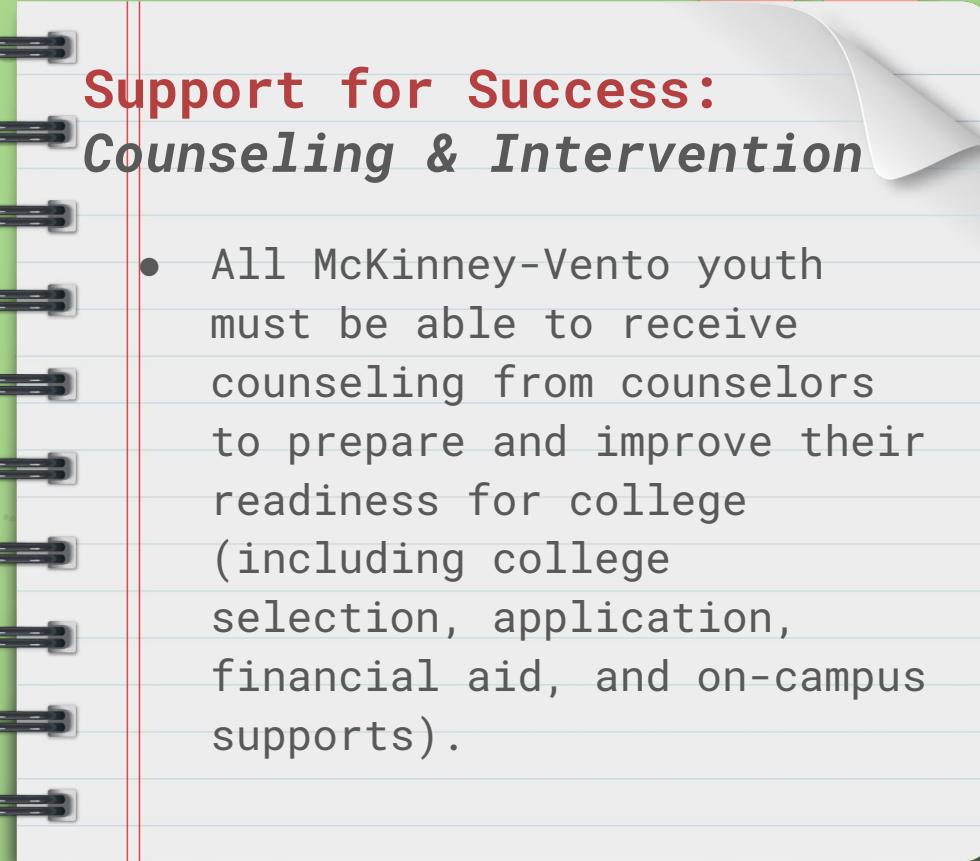
<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/positive-school-discipline-practices-for-students-experiencing-homelessness/>

# Overcoming Homelessness: Removing Barriers

- LEAs **must develop, review, and revise policies** to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment and retention of McKinney-Vento students, including barriers due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.
  - This is a “broad, on-going requirement... with regular input from homeless parents, youth, and advocates so that new barriers... do not prevent” students from full, immediate enrollment and services.

# Dispute Resolution

- If a dispute arises under the McKinney-Vento Act over eligibility, school selection, or school enrollment [42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(3)(E)], the Act requires LEAs to take the following steps:
  - The child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)(i)].
  - The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth must be provided with a written explanation of any dispute-related decisions made by the school, LEA, or SEA involved, including the right of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal such decisions [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)(ii)].
  - The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth must be referred to the local liaison, who will carry out the dispute resolution process described in the State McKinney-Vento plan as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)(iii)].



## **Support for Success:** *Counseling & Intervention*

- All McKinney-Vento youth must be able to receive counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college (including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports).

# Financial Aid for College

Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are informed they qualify as independent students for the FAFSA (apply without parental information) and must assist the youth in obtaining verification of that status.

- They need verification from a liaison, shelter provider, or financial aid administrator.

**Sample letter for the FAFSA,  
Pathways to Partnership, and more:**

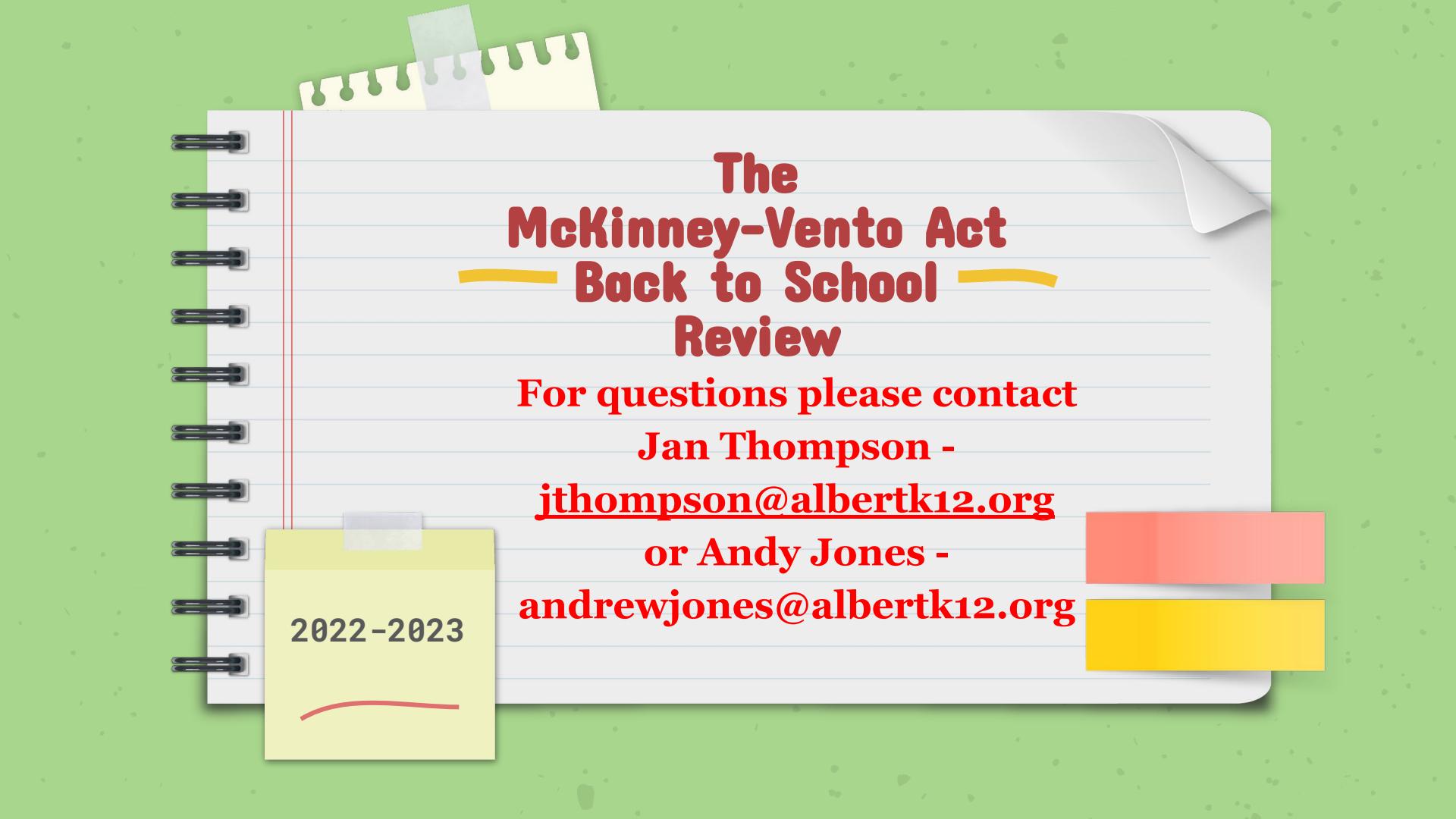
[www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/)

# Resources

- National Center on Homeless Education:<https://nche.ed.gov>
- SchoolHouse Connection:<http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>
- Hidden in Plain Sight:<http://www.americaspromise.org/report/hidden-plain-sight>



- National Network for Youth:<http://www.nn4youth.org>
- Education Leads Home:<https://www.educationleadshome.org/>
- Title I
  - <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/titlei.pdf>
  - <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/titlei-reform.pdf>
  - <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/homelesscoord0815.pdf>
- Early Childhood
  - <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/expanding-early-care-and-education-for-homeless-children>



# The McKinney-Vento Act Back to School Review

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