

Ohio McKinney-Vento Community of Practice

Supporting Transitions to Adulthood for Students
Experiencing Homelessness

Session 7

8/9/2023

Welcome!

Please say hello in the chat box and share

- Your name & pronouns
- Name of your District
- Your role
- One word description of how you are doing today



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Zoom Logistics



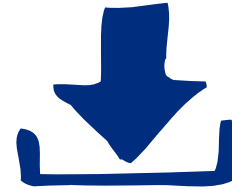
**All participants
can unmute**



**You can share
your camera**



**Questions can be
asked
throughout the
training**



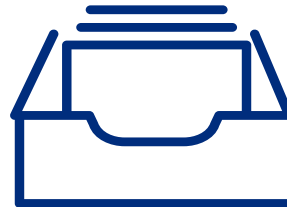
**The powerPoint
will be sent out
after each
training**



Breakout rooms



**Polls/
quizzes**



**Handouts/
Materials**



**Audio/video
issues**

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Need for FAFSA and Higher Education
- FAFSA Simplification Updates
- Best Practices
- Resources
- Q&A
- Closing

Objectives

Attendees will:

- Understand the importance of higher education for students experiencing homelessness
- Learn about the FAFSA process and procedures
- Learn best practices for supporting transitions to adulthood for students experiencing homelessness
- Learn resources to support transitions to adulthood for students experiencing homelessness

COHHIO Course to HOME Team



Amanda Wilson she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Director



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Initiative Specialist



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Initiative Specialist

Guest Presenters

Jiillian Sitjar (she/her)
Director of Higher Education Partnerships
SchoolHouse Connection

Carlos Bing
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Ohio Department of Higher Education

Supporting Transition to Adulthood for Students Experiencing Homelessness

August 9, 2023 | 1:00pm Eastern

COOHIO and Ohio Department of
Education

About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE:

schoolhouseconnection.org

NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

Agenda

- 1 **Role of High School Counselors**
- 2 **Need for Higher Education and FAFSA**
- 3 **FAFSA Simplification Updates**
- 4 **Transition from High School FAFSA Best Practices**
- 5 **Resources/Q&A**



Role of **High School Counselors**

Pulled from the McKinney-Vento Act

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

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.

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

Need for Higher Education & FAFSA

Need for Higher Ed & FAFSA

Higher Education and Financial Aid:

Why it Matters for Homeless Youth



Some form of postsecondary education is necessary for jobs that pay enough to lift out of poverty and afford housing - **80% of “good jobs”** are held by workers with at least some postsecondary education



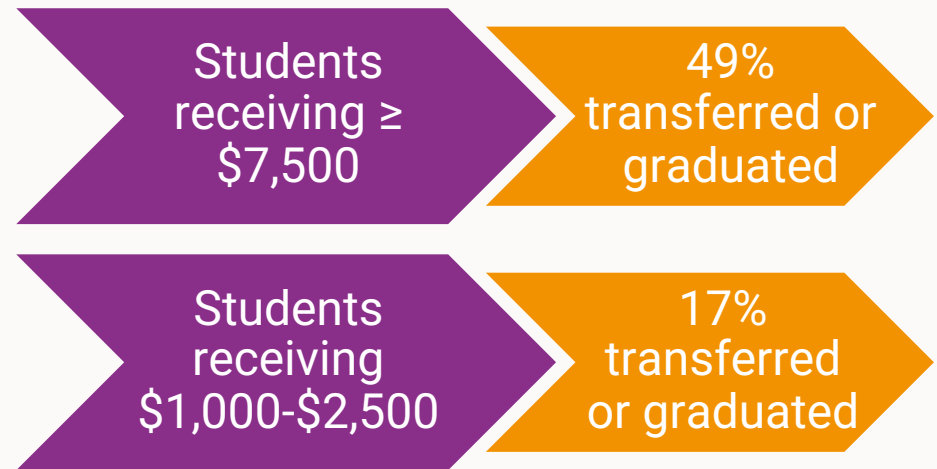
Higher education appears to be a protective factor against youth homelessness. A **2019 study** shows four year college enrollment to be nearly four time higher for young adults without experiences of homelessness in the prior month



New **data** links financial aid and upward mobility. In WA, all students who came from families with household incomes below \$63K saw their economic status rise within three years of earning a degree and entering the labor force

Financial Aid Makes a Difference

High schools seniors that complete the FAFSA are **63 percent more likely** to enroll in higher education. The higher the amount of financial aid they receive, the higher the likelihood they will successfully transfer or graduate.



Who is considered homeless on the FAFSA?

- Unaccompanied homeless youth or unaccompanied youth who are self-supporting and at risk of homelessness are independent students.
- Independent students do not need to include parental information on the FAFSA.

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.

Download the Report:

1. Visit this link -
bit.ly/3HsXsqL
2. Scan the QR Code

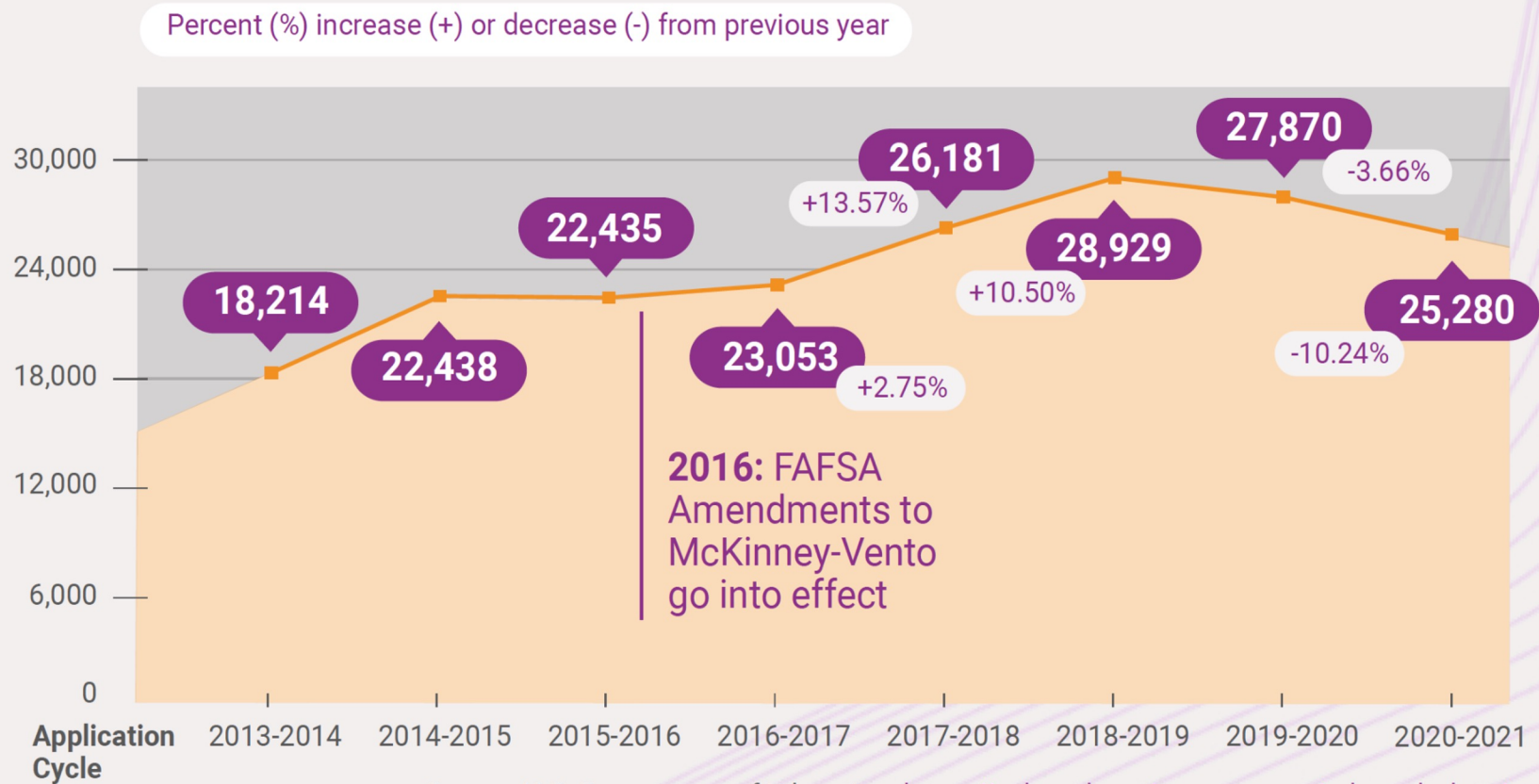


**“Working Harder
Just to Be Seen
and Heard:”**

**Barriers to Financial Aid for
Homeless and Foster Youth**



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determinations by School District Liaisons



Ohio FAFSA Determinations

Homeless Youth

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
845	814	784	815	878	878	895	773

*Missing FAFSA data on Foster Youth from 2017-2018

Foster Youth

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
4,749	4,266	3,872	3,689		3,278	3,012	2,775

FAFSA Simplification Updates

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The FAFSA Simplification Act: Major Policy Wins

Significant improvements for homeless and foster youth were included in the FAFSA Simplification Act

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is implementing the FAFSA Simplification Act **in phases through 2024-2025**

ED released guidance on November 4, 2022 and April 14, 2023 declaring the homeless/foster provisions are **in effect now** for enrollment in the upcoming 2023-2024 award year

While the text of the homeless/foster questions on the FAFSA that went online October 1 has not changed, **the law has changed**

Big Key Changes

- 1 Homeless and foster youth care status does not need to be redetermined.
- 2 Determinations must be made as quickly as practicable.
- 3 More programs and officials can provide determinations (school district liaisons or their designee, directors/designees of an emergency or transitional shelter (does not need need to HUD/RHYA funded), TRIO/GEAR UP director, financial aid administrators).

Transition from High School/FAFSA Best Practices

Best Practices

Transition from High School Best Practices

- Start talking about college earlier than senior year
- ACT/SAT fee waivers
- [McKinney-Vento College tour](#)
- FAFSA mentors/graduation coaches
- Homeless higher education liaisons

- Connect with other higher education professionals (financial aid, homeless higher education liaisons, support programs)
- Summer bridge programs ([Florida State Unconquered Scholar Program](#))
- Mentorship programs
- ARP-HCY money
- [College starter kits](#) (laptop, luggage, school supplies, hygiene items, bedding, etc)
- Warm hand-off (The 3 Big E's)

FAFSA Best Practices

- FAFSA is available now!
 - Use this [email template](#) to remind students.
- Provide unaccompanied homeless youth with determination letters ASAP
 - Use this [sample form letter](#)
- [FAFSA mentors](#)
- Financial aid nights/partner with local colleges
- School counselor FAFSA toolkit
- 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
- Trainings
- FAFSA Challenge
- Scholarships and emergency aid

KNOW ANY COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS WHO'VE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS?



Help them apply to the SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program.

The scholarship includes:

- \$2,500 Award
- 1-on-1 Support
- 3 All-Expenses-Paid Trips!



APPLY NOW AT  **SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP**



**What other strategies are you doing
to support homeless and foster
youth fill out the FAFSA and prepare
for higher education?**

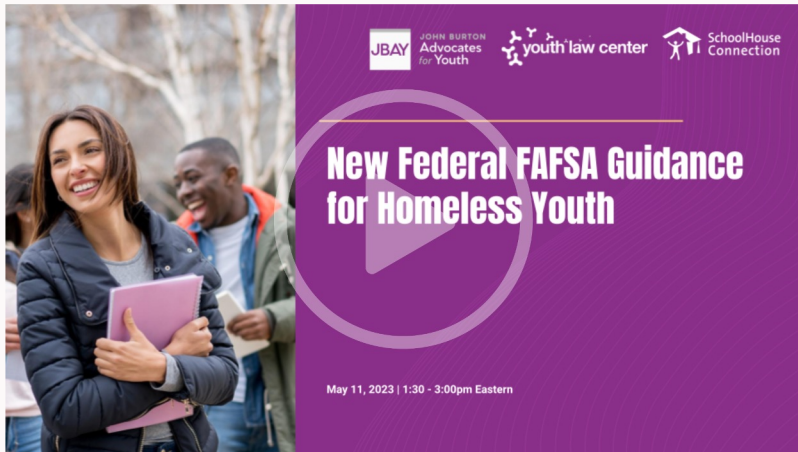
Key Takeaways

- 1 Start talking to students about plans for after high school before their senior year.
- 2 Big changes are coming to the upcoming 2024-2025 FAFSA. Provisions for homeless and foster youth are in effect now.
- 3 Provide continuous support for students as they transition from high school and provide a warm hand-off.

Questions & Discussion

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Resources



Video: [New Federal FAFSA Guidance for Homeless Youth Webinar \(May 11, 2023\)](#)

- [SHC Higher Education Page](#)
- [Tips for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College](#)
 - [Transition from high school](#)
- [FAFSA Page](#)
 - [FAFSA Simplification Act Two-Pager](#)
 - [FAFSA Simplification Act One-Pager](#)
 - [Sample form for determinations](#)



Let's Connect!

Facebook: SchoolHouse Connection

Facebook Group: Homelessness &
Education - A SchoolHouse Connection
Group

Instagram: @SchoolHouseConnection

Twitter: @SchoolHouseConn

Linkedin: SchoolHouse Connection

RESOURCES



Sign up for our Mailing List!

Get on the list for important legislative updates, useful resources, webinar announcements, and news related to homelessness and education.

Contact Information



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Partnerships**

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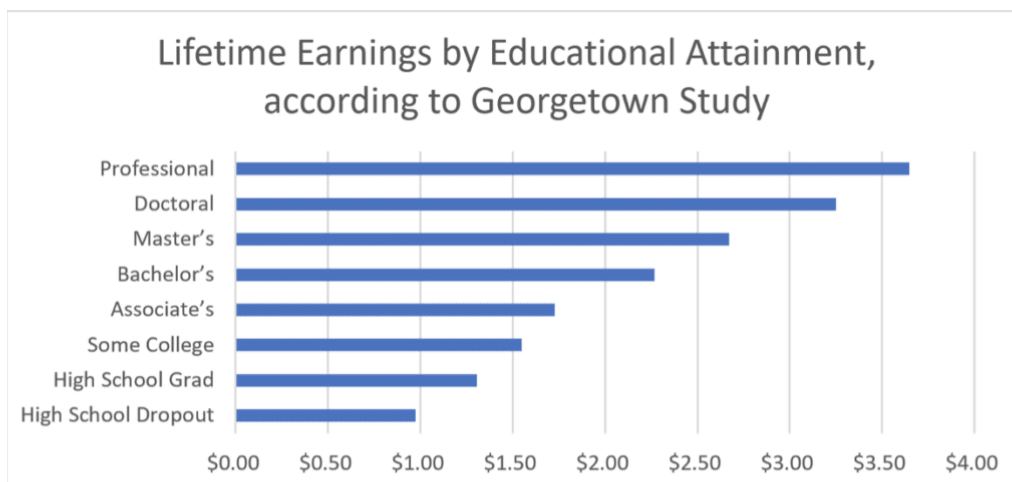


FAFSA Hub

Ohio Campuses

INSTITUTION TYPE	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS IN OHIO	ACCEPT FAFSA AID?	SPECIAL NOTE *
Public University	14	Yes	
Public Regional Campus	24	Yes	
Community College	37	Yes	
Private, not-for-profit	53	Yes	
Private, for-profit	60	Yes *	check with the institution to be certain
Ohio Technical Center	49	Yes *	some programs are not eligible for federal funds

Lifetime Earnings Potential



Resources

Ohio FAFSA Data Service

The Ohio FAFSA Data Service provides tools and resources designed to aid school leaders, counselors, and designated partners in assisting students with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

The service houses the **Ohio FAFSA Student Data Portal** which provides secure access to student-level FAFSA completion status, **Ohio FAFSA By The Numbers** which is a Data Dashboard that may be of interest to the public and policymakers and quick access to the **FAFSA Hub** which is a site sponsored by the Ohio Department of Higher Education that contains resources for counselors, students and parents.

District/School superintendents must request access to the FAFSA Data Service to view student-level data. Access is granted after completion of the **FAFSA Data Access and Security Agreement** (click for sample preview) between the district or school and the Ohio Department of Higher Education.



Ohio FAFSA Student Data Portal

Secure Access

Login



Ohio FAFSA By The Numbers

Data Dashboard

View



FAFSA Hub

Counselor, Student, and Parent Resources

Visit

Federal StudentAid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾

Loans and Grants ▾

Loan Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾

Home > Data Center > Student Aid Data > Application Volume Reports > FAFSA® Completion by High School and Public School District

FAFSA® Completion by High School and Public School District



TOGETHER WE CAN.

Supporting current and former foster youth reaching for higher education.

GET CONNECTED



Join the Mailing List

Sign up to Stay in Touch!

Sign up for the COHIO Course to HOME mailing list and stay up to speed.

* Email

Your **email** here 😊

* First Name

* Last Name

Sign Up



[Sign Up](#)

Feedback

We invite you to provide feedback about todays here:
<https://forms.gle/cdaEBnQPPeNW9UzaA>



Contact Information



COHHIO Course to HOME

homelesseducation@cohhio.org



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