

Effective Collaboration With Your Local School District Homeless Liaison

North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness

April 21, 2022

North Carolina Homeless Education Program



Questions to Ponder!

What are effective collaborations?

What collaboration are you involved in to meet the need of students who are experiencing homelessness?

What collaboration efforts would you like to be involved in moving forward to support students who are also experiencing homelessness?



NCHEP Responsibilities

Access

Compliance

**Technical
Assistance**

**Meetings and
Trainings**

**Program
Quality
Reviews**

Disputes

**Collaborative
Efforts**

**District
Subgrants**



McKinney-Vento Act

Supports students experiencing homelessness through:

- Enrollment
- Attendance
- Academic Success

A federal law that supersedes local and state policies and laws.

Main Themes

**State Coordinator
and
Homeless Liaison**

**Identification,
Enrollment,
Stability**

**Academic success
and
Credit Accrual**

**Child-Centered,
Best Interest
Determination**

Collaboration

**Subgrant
Requirements**

Preschool

Transportation

Higher Education

Defining Homelessness

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

**Fixed
Residence:**

Stationary;
Permanent; Not
subject to change

**Regular
Residence:**

Used on a routine
basis

**Adequate
Residence:**

Home setting meets
both physical and
psychological needs

Types of Situations

Sharing a home
due to loss of
housing /
economic hardship

Living in motels /
hotels / trailer
parks

Living in a shelter
/ bus or train
stations

Abandoned in
hospitals

Living in cars /
parks / under
bridges

Living in
campgrounds /
abandoned
buildings

Migratory children

Human trafficking

Unaccompanied
homeless youth

Other situations
meeting the
McKinney-Vento
definition

*To determine eligibility,
assess if the student can go to the:*

SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)

Determining Eligibility Key Points

**Case-By-Case
Determination**

**Clear-Cut
OR
Require Further Inquiry
OR
Judgment Call**

**Living Arrangement
does not include all three
=
homeless situation**

**Examples Provided Not
Exclusive**



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

A youth who is not in the physical custody of
parent or legal guardian

AND

lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate
nighttime residence.



Homeless

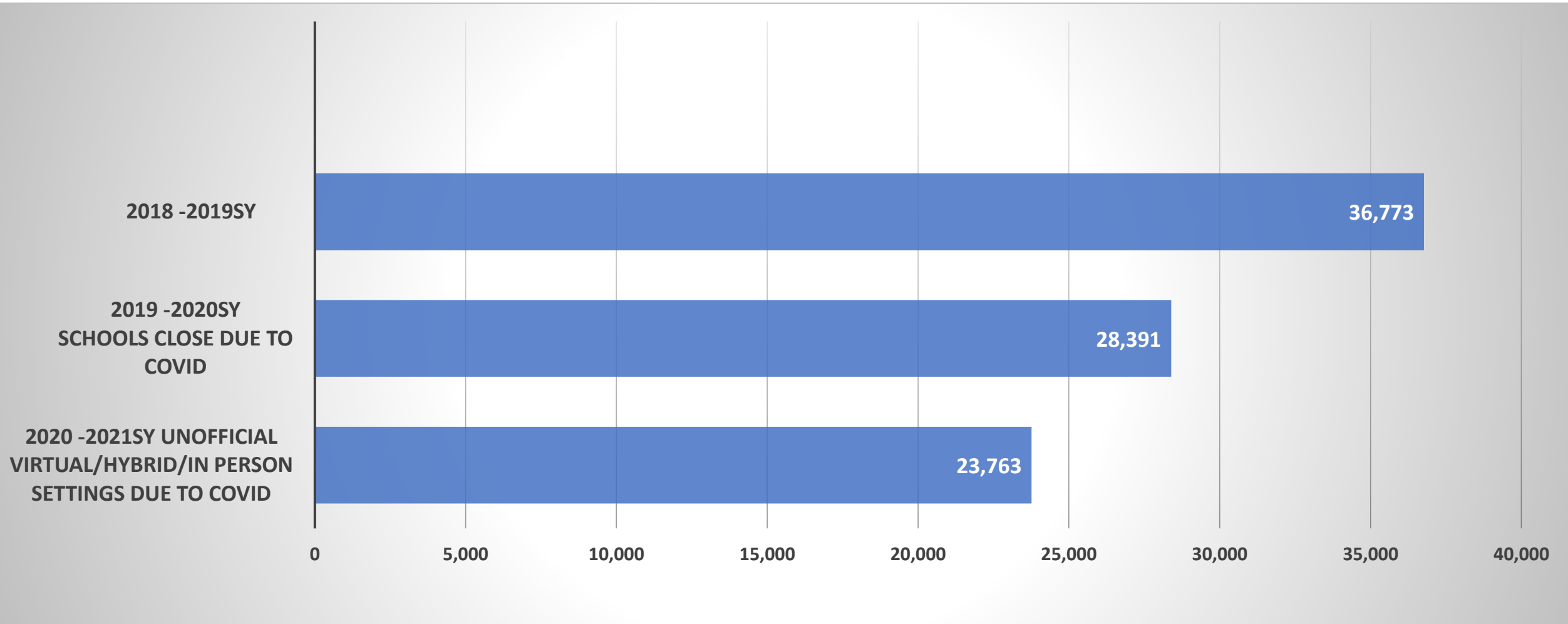


Unaccompanied

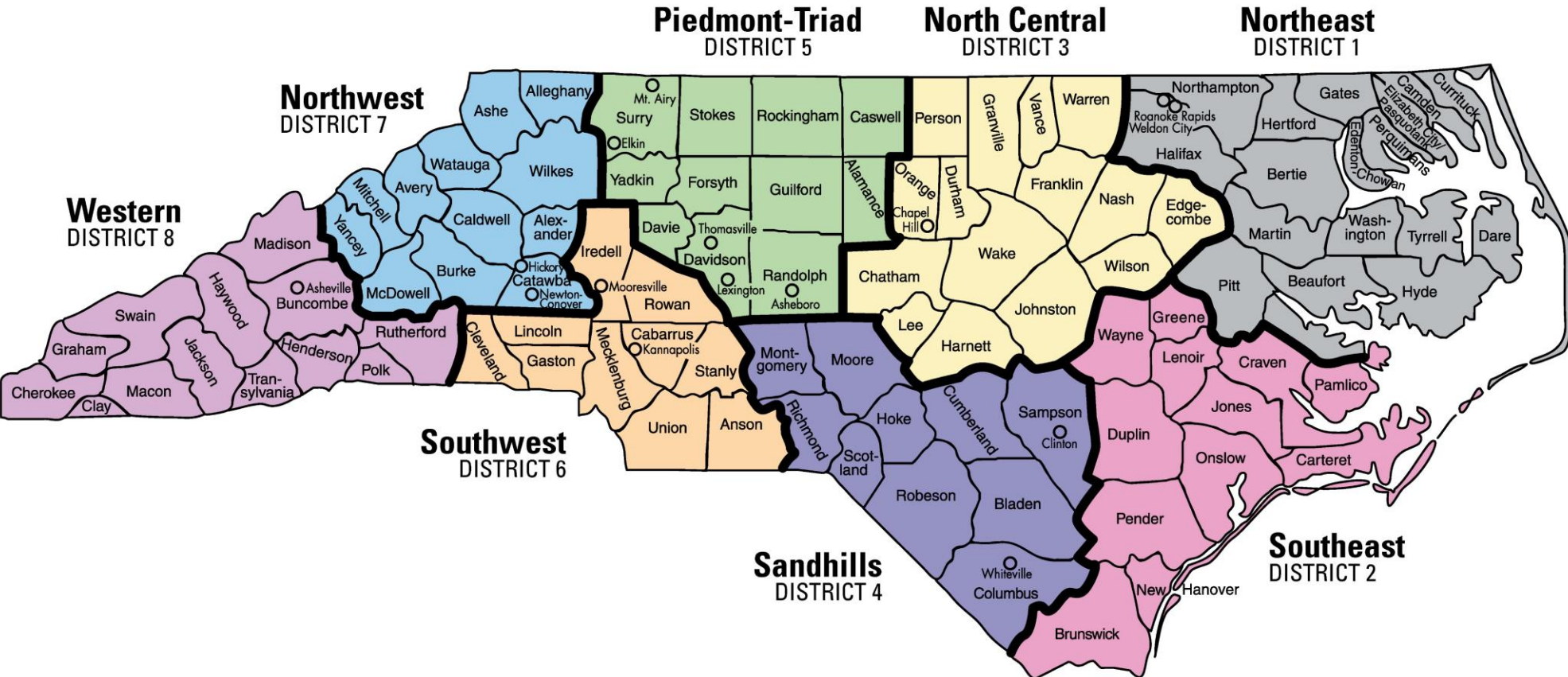


Unaccompanied
Homeless Youth
(UHY)

Students Identified as Homeless in NC Schools



North Carolina State Board of Education Prosperity Zones



Homeless Liaisons in Public School Units

- **Appointments:**
 - PSU, Charter, ISD, Lab and Virtual Schools
- **Total in NC:**
 - 315 and additional in larger PSUs
- **Positions:**
 - Director of Student Support Services, Assistant Superintendents, Title I Directors, School Social Workers, Counselors, etc.
- **Percentage of time in position will vary:**
 - Amount of student identifications, funding amounts, size of district, and type of district

**PSU – Public School Unit ISD- Innovative School District*



Homeless Liaison Responsibilities

- Identification
- Immediate Enrollment
- Access & Referrals
 - Internal & External
- Parent & Student Rights
- Disputes
- Data Collection
- Program Funding
- Professional Development
- Collaboration
 - Internal & External





Benefits to Identification

- **Immediate enrollment, even when lacking records**
- **Attend school of origin or local attendance area school**
- **Receive transportation to and from the school of origin**
- **Receive free school meals**
- **Access to the dispute resolution process**
- **Access to programs and services**
- **Support with Early Education and Higher Education Access**

Collaboration

- **The act of working together on a joint project or a similar project.**
- **Working together to achieve a goal.**
- **A process where 2 or more people, groups or organizations work together for similar or the same goals.**



Effective Collaboration



Takes Time



**Takes Sharing of
Responsibilities**



Takes Respect



Benefits of Collaboration



**TO SHARE
RESOURCES**



**TO SHARE
KNOWLEDGE**



**TO BUILD
CONSENSUS**



**TO BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS**



**TO INCREASE
OPTIONS**



**INCREASE
FLEXIBILITY IN
SERVICE DELIVERY**



**INCREASE
PROFESSIONAL
SUPPORT**

Challenges with Collaboration





1. Get in Touch



2. Meet Regularly to Exchange Information



3. Inform Parents and Youth About Available Services



4. Develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)

Experts in the Field!



Catherine Waugh
Person County
Schools



Rebecca McSwain
New Hanover County
Schools



Beth Branagan
Transylvania County
Schools



Educational Results of Working Together

- School Readiness
- Academic Progress
- School Engagement
- Improved Attendance
- Development of Foundational Skills
- Increase Social Skills
- Healthy Choices
- Parental Involvement
- Graduation Obtainment
- Access to Higher Education

And More!



Our Shared Goal!



To provide pathways
out of
homelessness.



Final Question:

What will you do to enhance the collaboration efforts with the local homeless liaison in your work?

Resources

North Carolina Homeless Education Program

<https://hepnc.uncg.edu/>

or

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/homeless-program-monitoring>

National Center for Homeless Education

*U.S. Department of Education's Technical Assistance
Center for the Education of Homeless Children and
Youth*

<https://nche.ed.gov/>





North Carolina Homeless Education Program

**NC Department of Public Instruction
Office of the Deputy State Superintendent of
Innovation
Federal Program Monitoring
and Support Division**

<https://hepnc.uncg.edu/>

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/homeless-program-monitoring>

District Appointed Homeless Liaison can be located at:
<https://hepnc.uncg.edu/local-liaisons/>

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