





# Creating a Districtwide System of Support:

A Holistic Approach to meet the needs of McKinney-Vento Youth

# WELCOME!

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# TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

**Today I will** see how one district has developed a mentoring systems of support specifically for youth experiencing homelessness (McKinney-Vento)

So that I can adapt/adopt/apply strategies in my own program

I'll know I got it if I can take something back to use in my role





# Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- AVUHSD
- Equity Mindedness
- MTSS and McKinney-Vento Youth
- Data snapshot
- Innovative Hope Scholar Mentor Program
- College/Career Pathways Role of the Counselor
- Independent City
- Professional Development
- Q and A







# Antelope Valley Union High School District



**Mission:** To Provide a safe and secure learning environment that promotes a rigorous curriculum and enables our students to develop necessary academic, technical, and work-related skills of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Vision**: Every student who graduates will be prepared to pursue college and any Career to which he or she aspires.

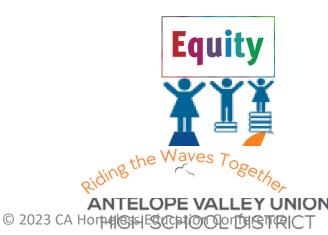
**Our why**: To give our best everyday so those we serve can give their very best.



# AVUHSD DEFINITION OF EQUITY

Equity in education is valuing diversity as well as examining, implementing, and accessing systems to ensure opportunities for the success of our AVUHSD community. This requires understanding unique challenges and barriers in order to facilitate full participation in our organization.





To become "equity-minded", we must:

- assess the impact of their current or past practices and acknowledge where things are not working
- understand inequities as a product (or failure of) of the structures, policies, and practices that they can control

Guestion their own assumptions and biases, and
Continually reassess their practices to create change

# **AVUHSD MTSS Definition**

AVUHSD Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a proactive, data oriented framework that explicitly and intentionally cultivates the academic, social-emotional, and behavioral development of all students through a layered continuum of evidence-based practices and reflective progress-monitoring in order to achieve well-defined student outcomes.







## **AVUHSD Snapshot**

1200 Square Miles

Aerospace Valley

Approx. size of Rhode Island

### **14 Schools**

8 High Schools2 Alternative2 Early College2 IndependentCharters

Title 1 District 73% SES

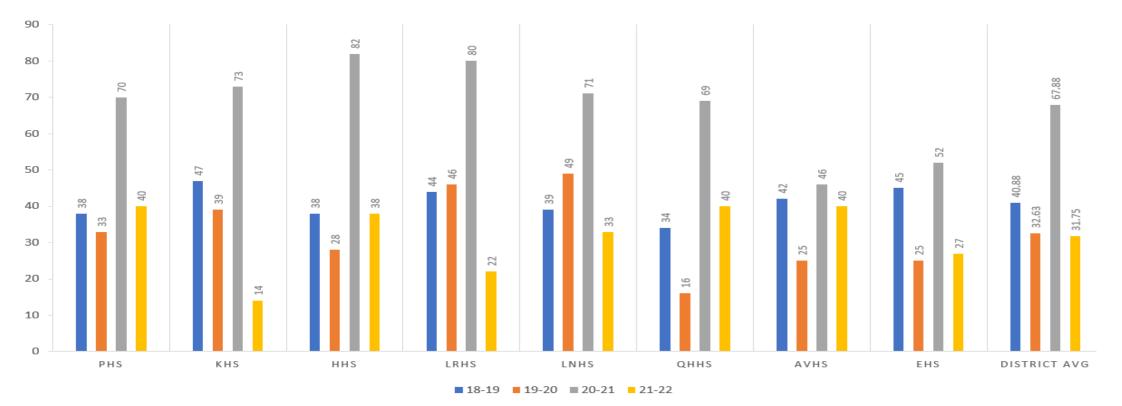
**Students** 

22000 +

208 McKinney Vento- Youth 1%

### **District-wide Academic Performance**

STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS 4+ DS OR FS BY SCHOOL YEAR (VALUES IN PERCENTAGES)

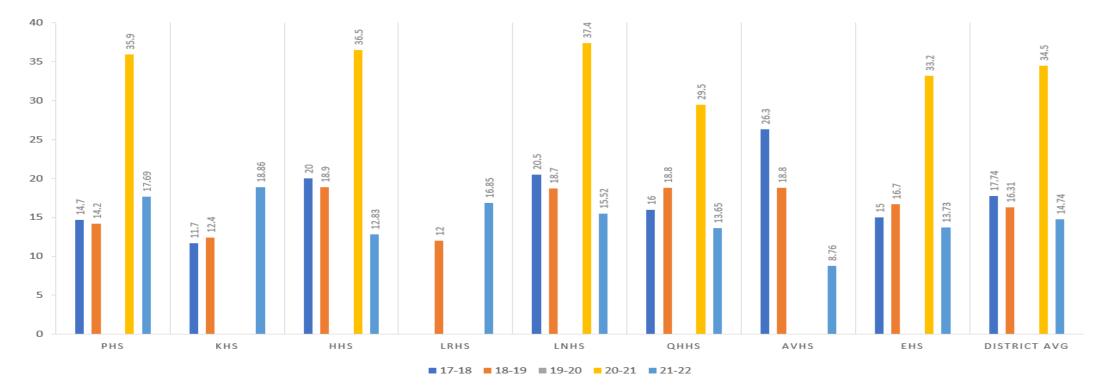


Los Angeles County Office of Education

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### **District-wide Absenteeism Rates**





Los Angeles County Office of Education



### Addressing the needs of McKinney-Vento Youth





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### **Hope Scholars Mentorship Program**

- Innovative practice developed as part of the Homeless Innovative Practice Grant application process.
- Centered on promoting a culture of leadership, accountability and ownership among educational partners districtwide.
- District-wide professional development (synchronous and asynchronous) for resilient scholar mentors, families, administrators, classified staff and certificated staff.
- Monthly and quarterly learning opportunities facilitated by the Coordinator of Student Services (Homeless Student Liaison)
- Overarching goal is to continually develop the capacity of mentors and provide structured time to assess student performance metrics district-wide.





## McKinney-Vento Mentor: Kalani Logan (My Journey)

- Community Attendance worker
- Mentor for McKinney-Vento at Eastside High School Advocate for McKinney-Vento Students in the following committees

-MTSS Tier 1, 2,3 committee member -PBIS school wide culture team

- My Journey as a McKinney-Vento Youth
- Our AVUHSD growth supporting McKinney-Vento Youth
- Training and learning skills to support our vulnerable youth
- Monthly Meetings to support McKinney-Vento Youth
- Attended National Conference of Homeless Youth
- Current role as a mentor/ role model for our youth





### McKinney-Vento Mentor at AVUHSD

- ADVOCATE for McKinney-Vento Youth
  - -Support Enrollment and Homeless youth survey
  - -Initial enrollment Greet and Meet the student and family
  - -Data entry and data monitoring
  - -Connect the student and family to community resources
  - -Provide Educational supplies, backpacks, hygiene kits, chromebook, wifi etc..
  - -Shopping trips on any basic clothing needs that our youth may need
  - -Ensure that student gets a school orientation by a peer
  - -Monitoring and Navigating student area of needs and supports
  - -Daily Check ins on campus, crisis, transportation needs
  - -Formal quarterly checks on grades, attendance, behavior, fees
  - -Refer to Counselor for graduation status and any mental health needs



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# **Enrolling Homeless Youth**

- ★ Student is identified
- ★ Counselor and CAW alerted
- ★ Counselor meets with student to discuss needs.
  - access to wifi, chromebook, school supplies, bus pass
- ★ Monthly meetings with counselor to monitor progress
- ★ Community resources provided







Counselors play a critical role in supporting homeless youth. Here are some ways in which counselors can provide support to homeless youth:

*	Emotional Support: Counselors can provide a safe and non-judgmental space for youth experiencing homelessness to express their feelings, fears, and concerns. They can offer empathetic listening, validation, and emotional support, helping homeless youth process their emotions and build healthy coping skills.	Advocacy and Case Management: Counselors can act as advocates for homeless. Counselors can also provide ongoing case management, helping homeless youth set and achieve goals, develop life skills, and establish connections with positive support networks.	
*	Basic Needs Assistance: Youth experiencing homelessness often struggle with meeting their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing. Counselors can connect them to local community resources, such as homeless shelters, food banks, and clothing banks; additionally, they help them access these essential services.	★ Crisis Intervention: Youth experiencing homelessness may face crises such as threats to their safety, physical or emotional abuse, or extreme weather conditions. Counselors can provide immediate crisis intervention by connecting them to appropriate resources, such as emergency shelters, medical care, or law enforcement, and assisting them in navigating through difficult situations.	
*	Mental Health Assessment and Treatment: Youth experiencing homelessness are at a higher risk of mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to the challenges they face. Counselors can conduct mental health assessments and provide appropriate treatment or referrals to mental health professionals for ongoing therapy or care.	*****	

Overall, counselors play a crucial role in providing comprehensive support to homeless youth, addressing their emotional, mental health, basic needs, and helping them achieve stability and resilience.

# Counselors can provide valuable support to homeless youth in navigating college and career pathways despite the unique challenges they may face.

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Here are some ways in which counselors can help homeless youth with college and career pathways:



Educational Planning: Counselors can assist homeless youth in developing educational plans that align with their career interests and goals. This may involve helping them explore different career options, identifying educational opportunities such as community college, vocational training programs, and creating a roadmap for achieving their educational objectives.	Financial Aid and Scholarship Assistance: Counselors can help homeless youth access financial aid and scholarships to support their educational pursuits. They can assist with completing financial aid applications, identifying scholarships or grants that may be available for homeless youth, and providing information on other financial resources, such as fee waivers or tuition assistance programs.
College and Career Exploration: Counselors can provide guidance on the college and career exploration process, helping homeless youth understand the various educational and career options available to them. They can help them research potential colleges, universities, or vocational programs, explore different career paths, and assess the skills and qualifications needed for their desired careers.	★ Career Development: Counselors can assist homeless youth in developing career- related skills, such as resume writing, interview preparation, and job search strategies. They can also provide guidance on networking, professional etiquette, and workplace expectations to help them navigate the job market and succeed in their chosen careers.
Academic Support: Counselors can provide academic support by helping them develop study skills, time management strategies, and organizational techniques to succeed in their coursework. They can also collaborate with teachers and school staff to advocate for academic accommodations or other support services to ensure homeless youth have the necessary resources for academic success.	Community Resource Referrals: Counselors can connect homeless youth to community resources and services that can support their college and career pathways. This may include referrals to job training programs, career counseling services, mentorship programs, and other local resources that can provide additional support and opportunities for homeless youth.

Connecting homeless youth to clubs and activities can provide them with opportunities for personal growth, social interaction, and skill development.

- ★ Identify and collaborate with clubs and organizations on campus that may interest the student.
- ★ Promote inclusivity and acceptance
- ★ Offer transportation options
- ★ Provide guidance and encouragement
- ★ Provide ongoing support



# Supports for McKinney Vento Student to become Valedictorians

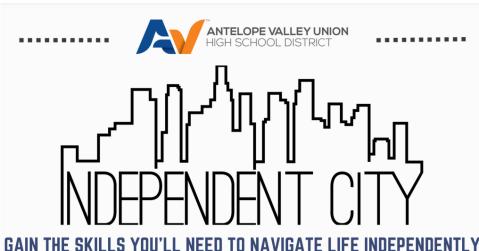
# School Counselor supports for academic success...



- ★ Providing assistance with college prep course selections.
- ★ Advocating for classroom support.
- ★ Provide free tutoring both in-person and virtual options.
- ★ Career assessments
- ★ College exploration
- ★ College application workshops

# Independent City Event: Real World Simulation





SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH 8AM - 1:30PM

HOSTED AT EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL 3200 EAST AVE J-8, LANCASTER, CA

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED

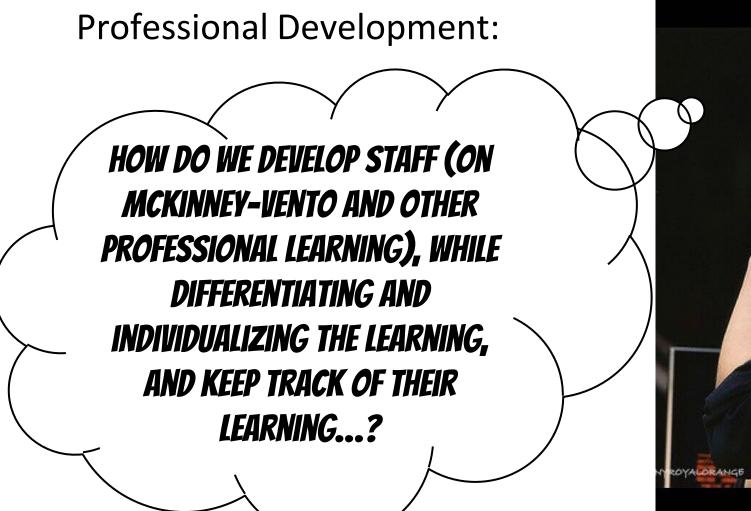








·CATERED BREAKFAST AND LUNCH·









# **SSEMBLE** POWER UP YOUR PERSONALIZED LEARNING

### A choice-driven, self-paced, on-demand Professional Development Platform



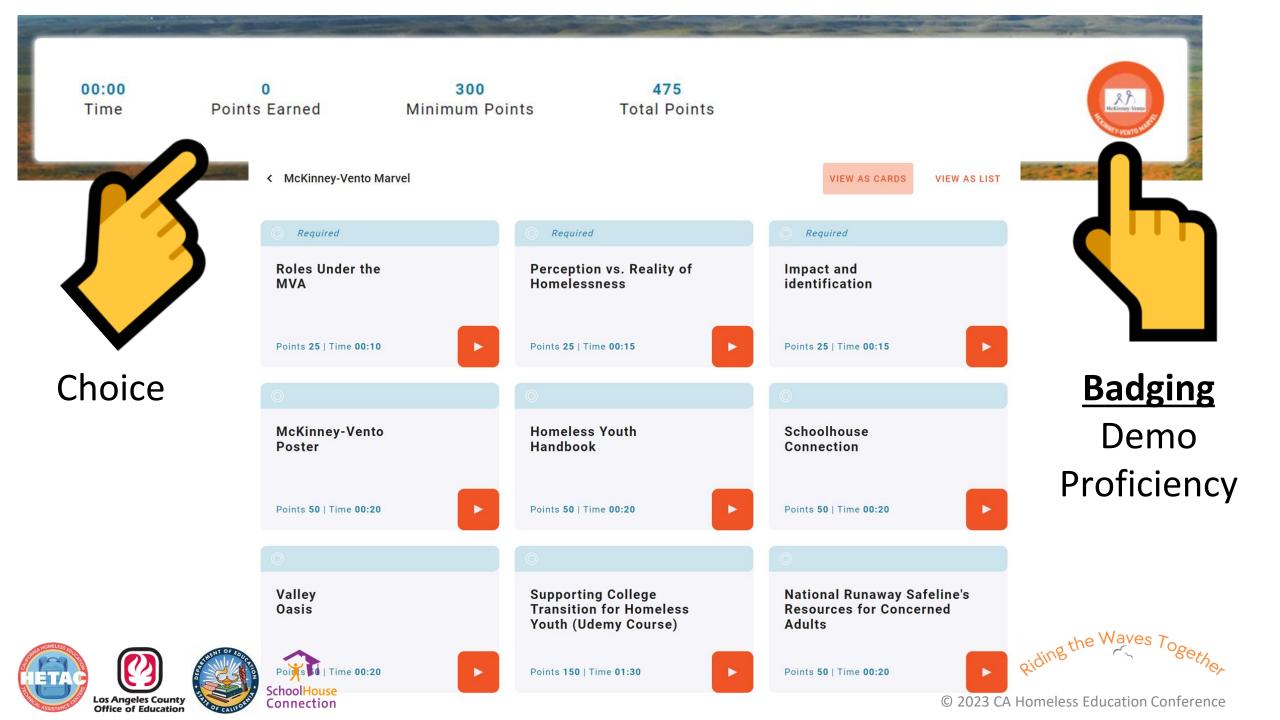
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### Perception vs. Reality of Homelessness

Estimated time to complete 00:15

### Learning Activity

This video will discuss perceptions and realities of students experiencing homelessness as well as our responsibilities to them under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act what are the three criteria used to determine whether a student is experiencing homelessness?

Besides providing a free and appropriate public education, what is the **goal** of the McKinney-Vento Act? (see federal mandate, AB 27)

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What are at least two ways it attempts to meet this goal?





### Resources

#### Slide Deck



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#### Other Resources Available

California Department of Education's Homeless Children and Youth Education

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

National Center for Homeless Education

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

SchoolHouse Connection

Recor	d Evidence				
	<ul><li>* Use the video provided to answer the following questions:</li><li>1. Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act what are the three criteria used to determine whether a student is experiencing homelessness?</li></ul>				
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	* 3. What are at least two ways it attempts to meet this goal?				
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# Our Playlist so far...





Supporting Youth Experiencing Homelessness Part 2: Perception vs. Reality



http://bit.ly/3UkTXHh



# Next steps...

# **Training & Incentives**





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