



# Breaking Barriers Together

Collaborating Across Departments to Support McKinney-Vento Students



# Welcome!



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Ontario-Montclair School District

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**Co-leading implementation of:**

- Community Schools
- McKinney-Vento Services
- Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Restorative Practices
- Trauma-Informed Practices



# Learning Objectives:

- **Learn** how interdepartmental collaboration can impact student success
- **Apply** strategies to strengthen identification, reduce absenteeism, and increase access to services for students experiencing homelessness
- **Design** collaborative approaches to remove barriers and promote whole-child support within their own school setting



# Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD)

- 17,635 enrolled
- Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 29 of 34 OMSD Community Schools – Cohort 1 & 3
  - Community Schools Coordinator (Outreach Consultant)
  - School Family Outreach Assistant
- Health & Wellness Services Family Resource Center
  - Full-Service center to support case management, mental health services, and crisis

District Demographics on Census Day		
Student Group	Total	Percentage
English Learners	4,629	26.2%
Foster Youth	84	0.5%
Homeless	2,093	11.8%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	15,430	87.2%
Students with Disabilities	2,740	15.5%
Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
African American	608	3.4%
American Indian	130	0.7%
Asian	495	2.8%
Filipino	95	0.5%
Hispanic	15,590	88.1%
Two or More Races	136	0.8%
Pacific Islander	56	0.3%
White	585	3.3%



# Ontario-Montclair School District

2,310 students

current identified OMSD students in transition for 25-26

12.9% of total enrollment

24-25 School Year = 14.9%





When you hear ‘supporting students experiencing homelessness,’ whose responsibility does that feel like right now at your site/district?



# Grounding in the Reality: Barriers Students Face



# Two Truths:

Students and families  
experiencing  
homelessness  
are resilient.

Our systems can  
often be the barrier...  
not the families.



# What We Know:

## Barriers Outside of School

- Housing instability
- Inadequate health & hygiene support
- Transportation
- Access to mental health & case management services

## System Barriers

- Training ALL staff – tailored to department needs
- Ensuring fidelity to EdCode & District policy
- Identification practices
- Communication across departments



No single department  
can remove all of the  
barriers alone.



# The Power of Cross-Department Collaboration



# Teamwork in Action

- Health & Wellness Services Department
  - Case Management
  - Mental Health Services
  - Physical Health Services
- Information Services
- Transportation
- Child Welfare & Attendance (CWA)
- Multilingual Learning
- Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)



# Information Services

## Focus: Identification & Dignity

- Identification as first responder
- Strengthen identification & supports:
  - Enrollment conversations
  - Data that flags concern
- Transition to online enrollment
  - Inclusion of parental rights
  - Requirement to answer housing question
- Improved reporting

*Identification improves when systems are built around trust*



# Information Services

- Connections with Info Services and School Sites beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school to increase identification before CBEDs
- Monitoring completed and shared by District Liaison

	BOY# in 24-25	Updates Needed 9/4	25-26 Identified	Updates Needed 9/12	25-26 Identified	Updated Needed 9/18	25-26 Identified	Updated Needed 9/24	Final Identified	Final Unanswered ?
El Camino	45	53	42	15	46	3	46	0	44	0
Elderberry	70	193	26	105	37	2	37	0	39	0
Euclid	67	193	42	129	57	56	67	2	67	0
Hawthorne	65	209	50	83	51	62	65	0	64	0
Haynes	86	283	52	114	73	18	84	0	84	0
Howard	85	67	79	9	79	0	79	0	79	0
Kingsley	66	256	43	143	48	116	56	28	63	0
Lehigh	67	293	32	219	57	44	62	11	67	0
Lincoln	57	207	34	187	41	125	44	107	52	0
Mariposa	83	0	94	0	96	0	97	0	104	0
Mission	31	0	56	0	57	0	62	0	63	0
Monte Vista	49	371	20	369	43	194	65	0	66	0
Montera	71	87	50	87	64	37	72	10	70	4
Moreno	65	184	23	153	30	51	47	31	38	0
Online Academy	6	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Ramona	87	0	66	0	68	0	67	0	69	0
Sultana	70	197	61	123	80	30	88	0	102	0
Vineyard	120	0	117	0	115	0	116	0	116	0
Vista Grande	28	108	14	92	14	74	23	35	36	0



# Transportation

## Focus: Getting students to school consistently

- Updated board policy to reflect best practices
- Training every year on policy & trauma-informed practices
- Creative solutions (connection to Case Management):
  - Gas Cards
  - Public Transit Passes
  - District Van Services

*Transportation isn't just logistics – it's access.*



# Transportation

- 50 students currently transported
- Each request is reviewed by a CWA staff member – then routed through transportation.
  - Human factor
  - District McKinney-Vento Liaison consulted as needed
- Student & Family Needs
  - Transportation staff reach out to District Liaison when concerns arise



## OMSD

### Transportation Decision Tree



#### General Ed

CWA, McKinney-Vento

Board Policy 3541-eligibility for transportation based on distance between students home and school if beyond minimums listed below:

Elementary Students  
Grade K-6: 2 miles

Middle School Students  
Grades 6-8: 3.5 miles

#### General Ed

##### CWA

- 1.School Site submits BSR to CWA
- 2.CWA identifies qualifying factor
  - a.Attendance Review Board
  - b.Bullying
  - c.Discipline Panel
  - d.Foster Care
  - e.Medical
  - f.Safety Concern
- 3.Final approval-CWA Director
- 4.CWA submits BSR to Transportation

##### McKinney-Vento

1. ORC, CORC, SFOA identify if attending School of Residence OR School of Origin
  - a.If School of residence, follow CWA process under BP 3541
  - b.If School of Origin AND parent requests, submit BSR to CWA
- 2.Final approval-CWA Director
- 3.CWA submits BSR to Transportation



#### Special Ed

Transportation Needs defined in IEP

#### District Programs

Board Policy 8173-eligibility for transportation for McKinney-Vento based on School of Origin upon family request



#### District Programs

- 1.After School Programs: Schools requesting bus service for an after school program must follow the same procedures as a field trip (see Field Trip Guidelines posted on Transportation's webpage).
- 2.Overflow Program: When the school of residence has reached capacity for any grade level, they should begin the overflow transfer process. Transportation services will be provided for students attending school outside their school attendance area if the distance between their home and school is beyond the district's minimum walking distance. When this happens, the school of residence must submit an "Overflow Request Form" to Transportation.
- 3.Newcomer Program: If a student from another country enrolls in school and the parent desires bus service, please contact the English Language Learners Department for direction.
- 4.McKinney-Vento Act: If a student needs bus service as a result of attending the School of Origin, please contact your site's ORC, CORC, or SFOA for direction. You may also contact the OMSD District Homeless Liaison, Executive Director Cara Molina, at (909)459-2500 or email [cara.molina@omsd.net](mailto:cara.molina@omsd.net).

After the Transportation Department receives a program request, it can take up to 10 days to place a student on a route. Transportation will notify the parent and school of the route number and pickup times after all arrangements have been made.



# Child Welfare & Attendance

## Focus: Enrollment & Chronic Absenteeism from a Supportive Lens

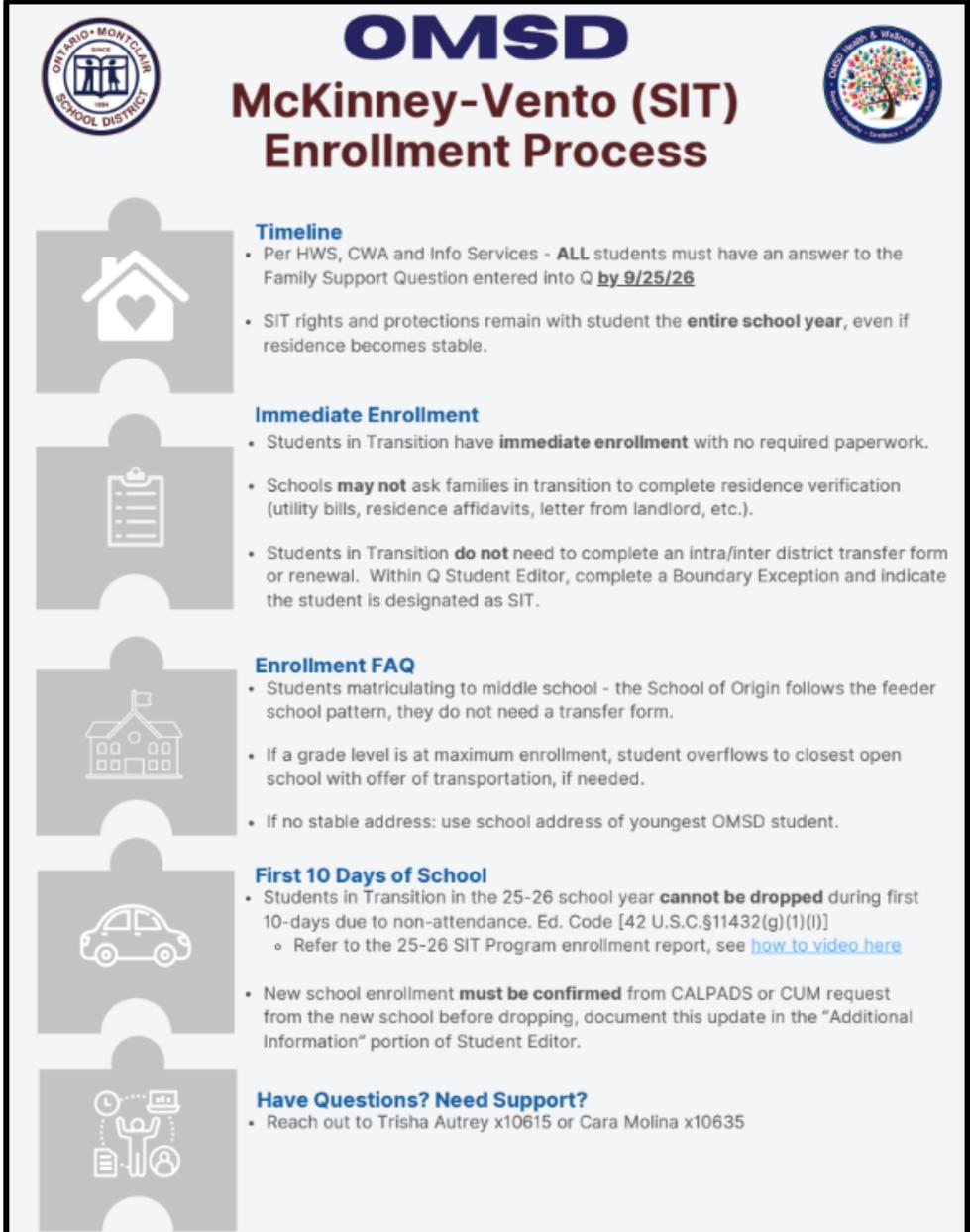
- Shifting from compliance to connection
- Coordinated outreach prioritized
- Use attendance as an early identification tool
- Connection to school-site Community Schools Coordinator

*Attendance improves when families are supported.*



# Child Welfare & Attendance

- Clear enrollment process
- Clear language for school sites to reference
- Updated and emailed to school sites each year
  - Start of enrollment period in March
  - Start of school year in July



**OMSD**  
**McKinney-Vento (SIT)**  
**Enrollment Process**

**Timeline**

- Per HWS, CWA and Info Services - **ALL** students must have an answer to the Family Support Question entered into Q **by 9/25/26**
- SIT rights and protections remain with student the **entire school year**, even if residence becomes stable.

**Immediate Enrollment**

- Students in Transition have **immediate enrollment** with no required paperwork.
- Schools **may not** ask families in transition to complete residence verification (utility bills, residence affidavits, letter from landlord, etc.).
- Students in Transition **do not** need to complete an intra/inter district transfer form or renewal. Within Q Student Editor, complete a Boundary Exception and indicate the student is designated as SIT.

**Enrollment FAQ**

- Students matriculating to middle school - the School of Origin follows the feeder school pattern, they do not need a transfer form.
- If a grade level is at maximum enrollment, student overflows to closest open school with offer of transportation, if needed.
- If no stable address: use school address of youngest OMSD student.

**First 10 Days of School**

- Students in Transition in the 25-26 school year **cannot be dropped** during first 10-days due to non-attendance. Ed. Code [42 U.S.C.§11432(g)(1)(I)]
  - Refer to the 25-26 SIT Program enrollment report, see [how to video here](#)
- New school enrollment **must be confirmed** from CALPADS or CUM request from the new school before dropping, document this update in the "Additional Information" portion of Student Editor.

**Have Questions? Need Support?**

- Reach out to Trisha Autrey x10615 or Cara Molina x10635



# Child Welfare & Attendance

- District Liaison monitors monthly <90% attendance
- Connections to school site liaison & Case Management for family story & supports
- SARB meetings with a supportive team (including liaison)

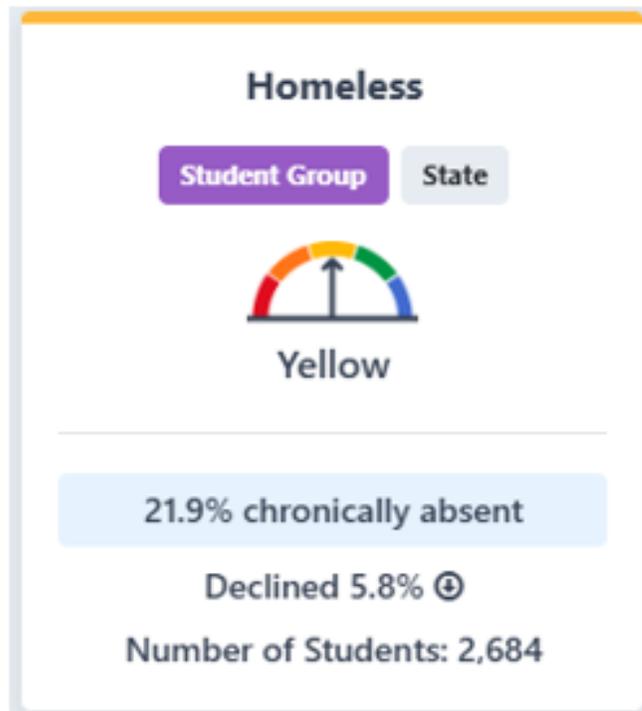
ID	School	12/4/2024		1/6/2025		1/31/2025		2/28/2025		4/7/2025		5/22/2025		CM? Yes/No	Interventions & Notes
		Absent	YTD	Absent	YTD	Absent	YTD	Absent	YTD	Absent	YTD	Absent	YTD		
		10	86%	14	84%	19	82%	26	79%	32	78%	43	75%		SARB. 2 home visits. Only child. Declines resources. Parent doesn't disclose why attendance is a struggle.
		11	86%	11	88%	7	93%	2	98%	0	100%	2	99%		
		10	86%	12	86%	15	85%	0	100%	3	98%	8	95%		
		24	68%	26	70%	25	72%	34	69%	41	69%	61	63%	Yes - Elisa	Single mom, teen sibling doesnt want to go to school, so this student follows suit. Provided shoes, clothing, CM.
		26	66%	27	70%	31	71%	38	70%	39	73%	46	74%		Live 1 block away. Mom has chronic pain and on bad days will not take boys to school. SARB. CICO and attendance check-in
		23	68%	23	74%	27	75%	33	74%	33	78%	42	77%		Live 1 block away. Mom has chronic pain and on bad days will not take boys to school. SARB. Silent Mentoring & attendance check-in
				12	87%	16	85%	21	83%	17	88%	18	90%		
								9	47%	16	59%	36	49%	Yes - Carmen	Enrolled 2/3, CM Carmen Barrera has made several attempts to schedule/reschedule assessments since 12/16/2024. Living in a motel
								32	74%	33	78%	40	78%		
		13	83%	16	82%	19	82%	28	78%	36	76%	51	72%	Previously	SpEd (Mild/Mod), Transportation
		15	77%	20	74%	33	66%	50	56%						SST (initial 1/8), walks to school (1 mile), takes city bus and doesnt wake up in time to get to the bus, not on SARB for April.
		10	87%	12	87%	14	87%	20	84%	24	84%	31	83%		SpEd (RSP), previous MH Cousneling Center
		10	87%	11	88%	14	87%	16	87%	18	88%	22	88%		Transportation
		20	74%	23	74%	27	75%	32	74%	37	75%	53	70%		Previous transportation last year
		14	82%	17	81%	20	81%	29	77%	35	76%	49	73%		
		13	83%	15	83%	18	83%	22	82%	30	80%	39	78%	Yes - Jamie	SpEd (RSP), Grandmother is guardian per Q
		14.06	81%	15.36	81%	17.56	83%	21.05	80%	25.41	80%	32.43	79%		



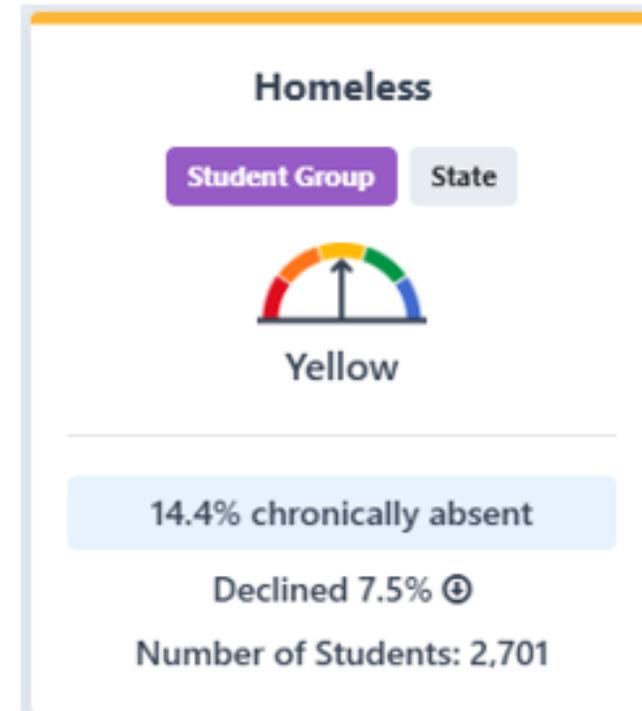
# Child Welfare & Attendance

## What does the data say?

2024 CA Dashboard



2025 CA Dashboard



# Case Management

**Focus: Help families navigate systems and resources**

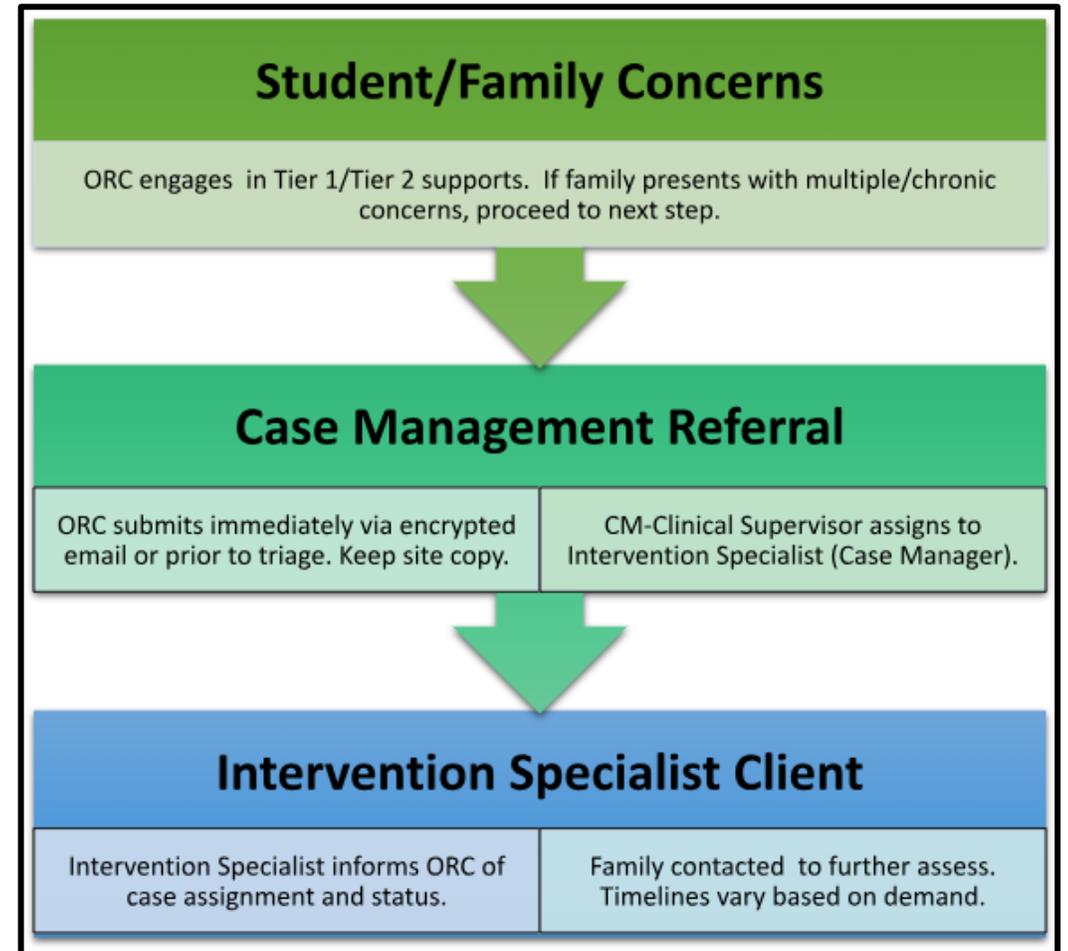
- Coordinating basic need supports to remove barriers
- Case Management Team
  - 2 Clinical Supervisors
  - 12 Intervention Specialists
  - 3 Case Management Interns
  - 2 Insurance Enrollment Specialists
  - Van Driver

*Wraparound support begins with relationships*



# Case Management

- Tiered Support based on identified need through referral generated by school site liaison
- Immediate access to basic needs such as: school supplies, clothing, food, hygiene kits, & internet
- Crisis Support as needed:
  - Unhoused due to unpredictable situations
  - Eviction
- Braided funding & strong partnerships with cities and community based organizations



# Mental Health

## Focus: Support students & families experiencing trauma

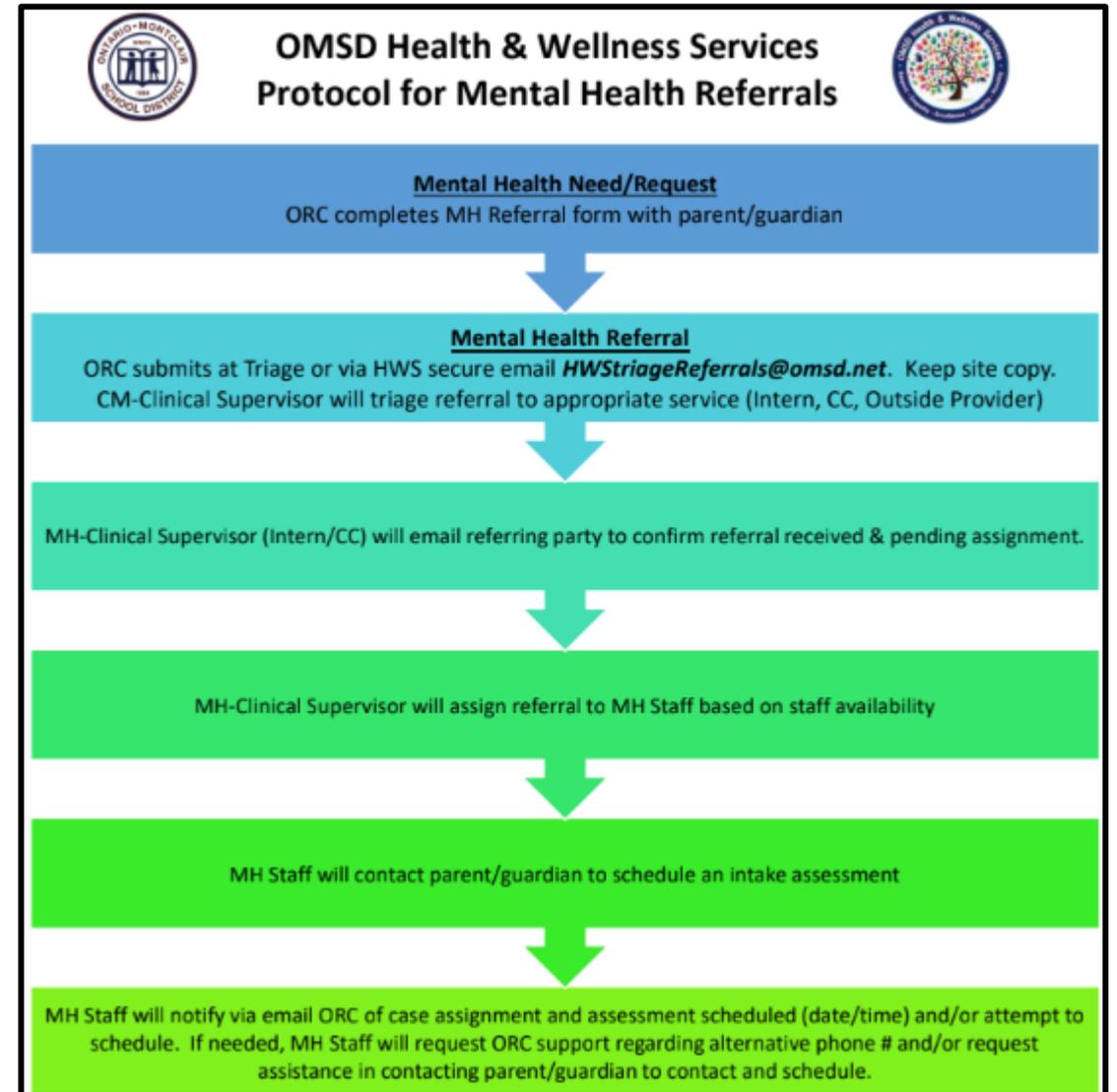
- Homelessness is often paired with trauma, anxiety, grief, or chronic stress
- Mental Health Team
  - 1 Program Manager
  - 5 Clinical Supervisors
  - 13 Clinical Therapists
  - 33 Mental Health Interns
- Crisis Team
  - Respond to student, family, and staff crisis on demand
  - Connections to County Crisis Response Team (CCRT) when need for hospitalization

*Meeting mental health needs is a part of basic needs.*



# Mental Health

- County service provider
  - 2 contracts & multiple billing programs
- Provide space for students to process experiences and build resilience through school-based support
- Program status included in referral to inform support



# Physical Health

## Focus: Remove health-related barriers to learning

- Health Services Team
  - 1 Health Administrator
  - 18 School Nurses
  - 27 LVNs
  - 11 Health Assistants
- Training at annual staff meeting
  - McKinney-Vento law in conjunction with California Guidance for School Health Systems

*Bridging the gap between wellness & the classroom*



# Physical Health

- Immunizations
  - Partnership with local health clinic for FREE immunization support
  - Supportive connections with families
  - District Liaison & Health Administrator discuss unique situations
  - Connections to Van Driver if needed



TO ALL OMSD STUDENTS:

## Free Immunizations for School Enrollment

Parktree Community Health Center  
1556 South Sultana Ave.  
Ontario, CA 91761  
(909) 469-9017

**STARTING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21  
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 4 PM TO 6 PM**



\*Parent/Guardian must be present.  
\*Bring immunization yellow card/records.



# Multi-Lingual Learning

## Focus: Connections to our newest community members

- Meetings with District support TOAs
  - Newcomer Class at 6 comprehensive middle schools
  - Training to Newcomer Class Teacher on law and supports
- Open dialogue to continue building relationship between our targeted support of this population
- Support group for parents/guardians from Central America
  - Build connections & establish needs
  - Build understanding of our growing community

*Identification & support improves when everyone is informed*



# After School Program & ELOP

## Focus: Enrichment and care until 6PM

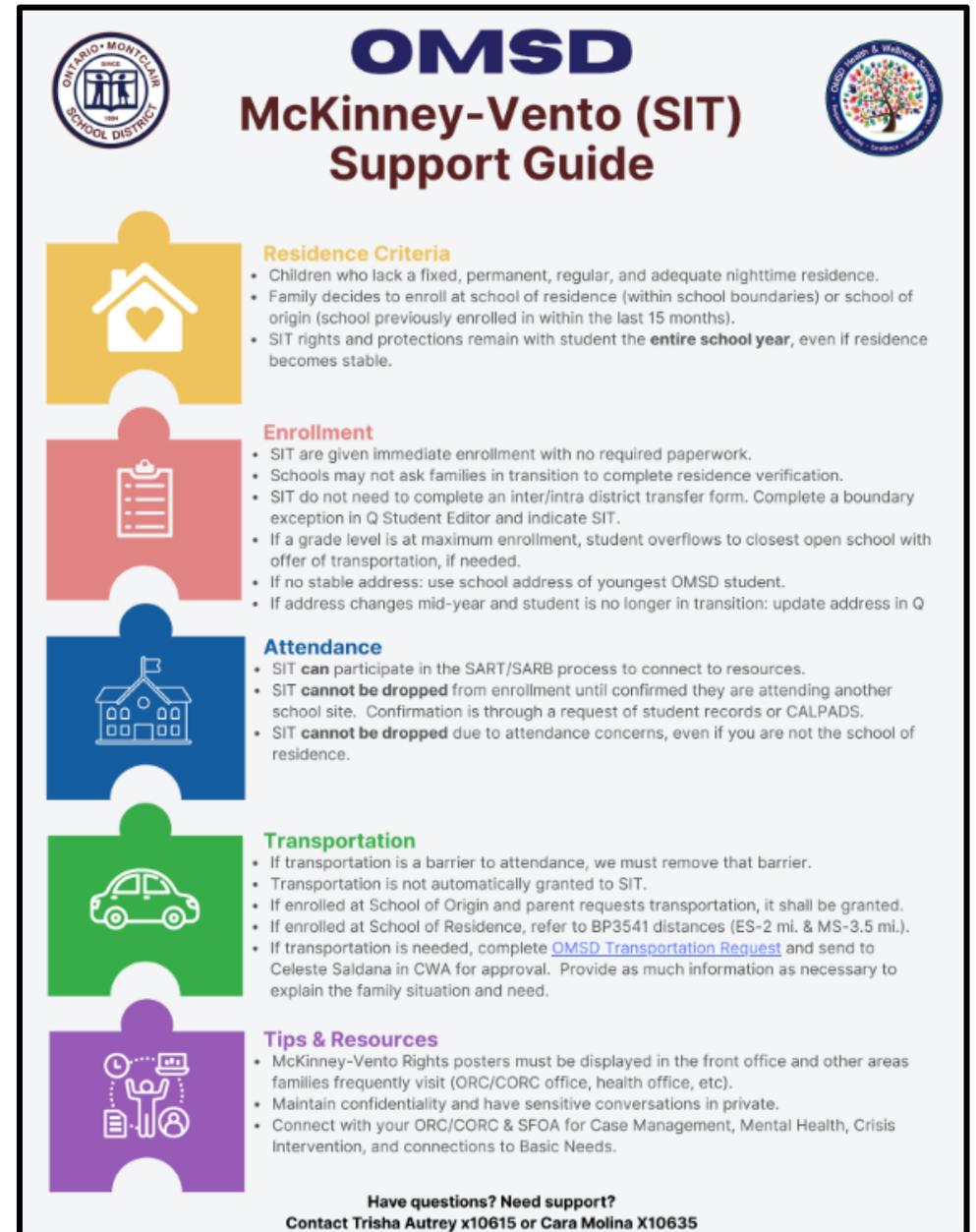
- Free after school enrichment & care until 6PM
  - Homework support, meals, and a safe place
- ELOP Clubs (SEL & interests based) & Sports
- Contracted After School Program
  - Think Together, Champions, Middle Tree, ELEVO, and Montclair ASP
- All ELOP and After School Program staff directly trained on McKinney-Vento law and trauma-informed practices
- Prioritized enrollment for students experiencing homelessness
  - 1320 students (approx. 58%) of students in transition participating

*Stability and connection do not end at dismissal.*



# Working Together

- Resource provided to school sites to provide quick access to key policies and district procedures
- Branding with district liaison on all documents to ensure they know who to contact
- Next Steps:
  - Formulate a team from each department to meet bi-annually
  - Continue to modify and train staff annually
  - Creation of Health & Wellness Services Department video series to increase awareness



**OMSD**  
**McKinney-Vento (SIT)**  
**Support Guide**

**Residence Criteria**

- Children who lack a fixed, permanent, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Family decides to enroll at school of residence (within school boundaries) or school of origin (school previously enrolled in within the last 15 months).
- SIT rights and protections remain with student the **entire school year**, even if residence becomes stable.

**Enrollment**

- SIT are given immediate enrollment with no required paperwork.
- Schools may not ask families in transition to complete residence verification.
- SIT do not need to complete an inter/intra district transfer form. Complete a boundary exception in Q Student Editor and indicate SIT.
- If a grade level is at maximum enrollment, student overflows to closest open school with offer of transportation, if needed.
- If no stable address: use school address of youngest OMSD student.
- If address changes mid-year and student is no longer in transition: update address in Q

**Attendance**

- SIT **can** participate in the SART/SARB process to connect to resources.
- SIT **cannot be dropped** from enrollment until confirmed they are attending another school site. Confirmation is through a request of student records or CALPADS.
- SIT **cannot be dropped** due to attendance concerns, even if you are not the school of residence.

**Transportation**

- If transportation is a barrier to attendance, we must remove that barrier.
- Transportation is not automatically granted to SIT.
- If enrolled at School of Origin and parent requests transportation, it shall be granted.
- If enrolled at School of Residence, refer to BP3541 distances (ES-2 mi. & MS-3.5 mi.).
- If transportation is needed, complete [OMSD Transportation Request](#) and send to Celeste Saldana in CWA for approval. Provide as much information as necessary to explain the family situation and need.

**Tips & Resources**

- McKinney-Vento Rights posters must be displayed in the front office and other areas families frequently visit (ORC/CORC office, health office, etc).
- Maintain confidentiality and have sensitive conversations in private.
- Connect with your ORC/CORC & SFOA for Case Management, Mental Health, Crisis Intervention, and connections to Basic Needs.

Have questions? Need support?  
Contact Trisha Autrey x10615 or Cara Molina X10635



# In Conclusion

**Supporting students experiencing homelessness is a shared responsibility.**

- Systems... not students, must be flexible
- Collaboration works best when roles are clear and communication is intentional
- *Call to Action: What is one department you will intentionally partner with after today?*



Thank you

**Questions?**

**Trisha Autrey**

**Lead Outreach Consultant**

**Ontario-Montclair School District**

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