

A photograph of three diverse students in a classroom setting. A young woman with long brown hair is looking at a laptop on the left. In the center, a young woman with glasses and braids is writing in a notebook. On the right, a young man with dreadlocks is looking towards the center. The background shows posters on a wall.

McKinney-Vento Best Practices

Roles and Responsibilities of Homeless Liaisons

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McKinney-Vento Act-It's the Law!

The Act supports students experiencing homelessness through:

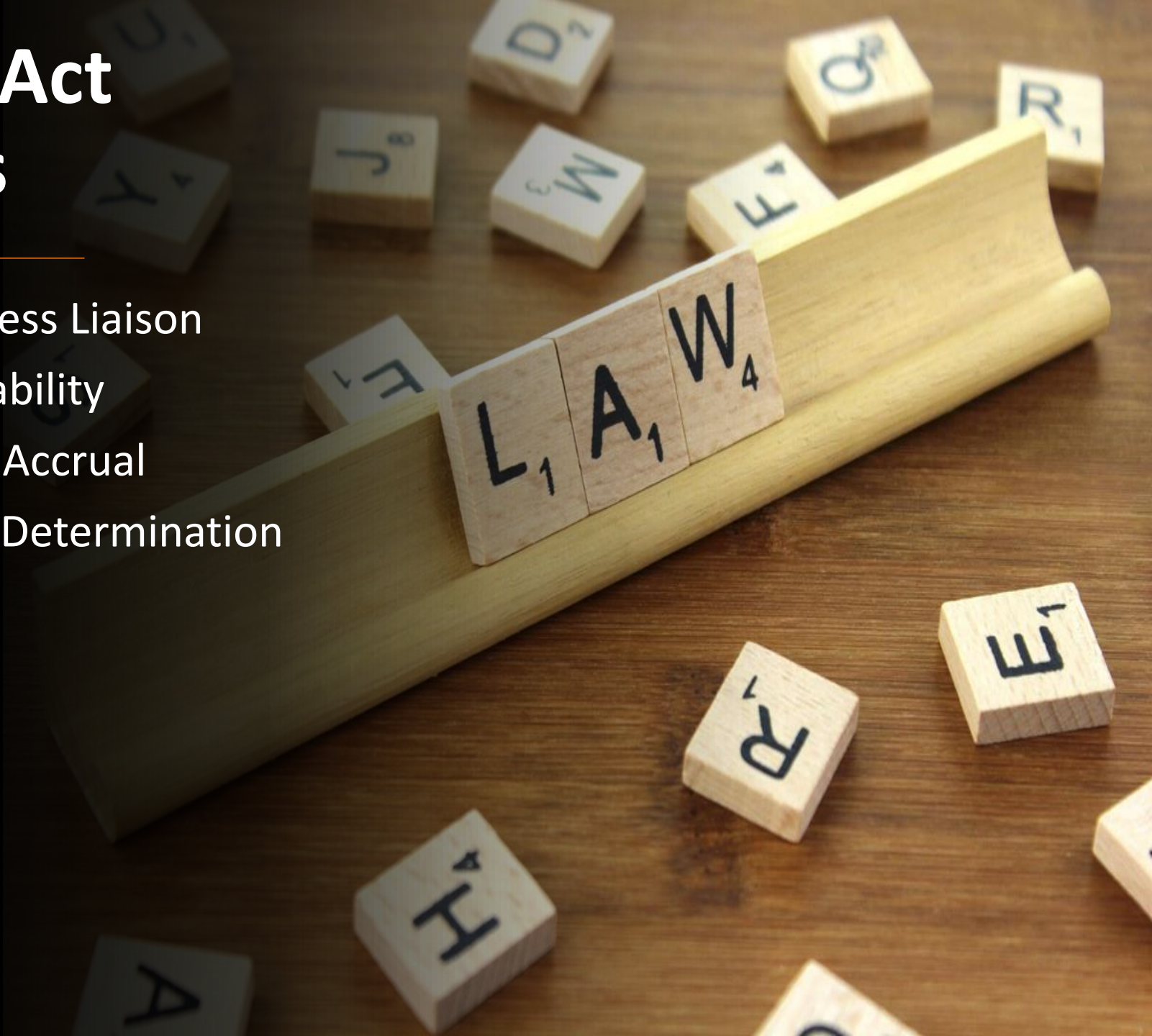
- Immediate Enrollment
- Attendance
- Academic Success
- Leveling the Playing Field

Federal law supersedes state and local law as well as local policies.



McKinney-Vento Act Key Provisions

- State Coordinator and Homeless Liaison
- Identification, Enrollment, Stability
- Academic Success and Credit Accrual
- Child-Centered, Best Interest Determination
- Collaboration
- Subgrant Requirements
- Transportation
- Preschool
- Higher Education



You Are The Liaison

Local Liaisons are responsible for the identification of homeless children and youth.

LEAs are required to:

- Appoint a homeless liaison whether it receives McKinney-Vento subgrant funding or not.
- Provide designated liaison the capacity to carry out their assigned duties under the Act.



Identification Best Practices

- **Mckinney-Vento posters displayed in schools and community**
- **Participate on CoC**
- **Speak at churches, civic groups**
- **Leave social worker calling cards at motels**
- **Participate on any local homeless task forces, committees**
- **Be visible and known in schools and the community**
- **Residency questionnaire**
- **Train ALL school staff**



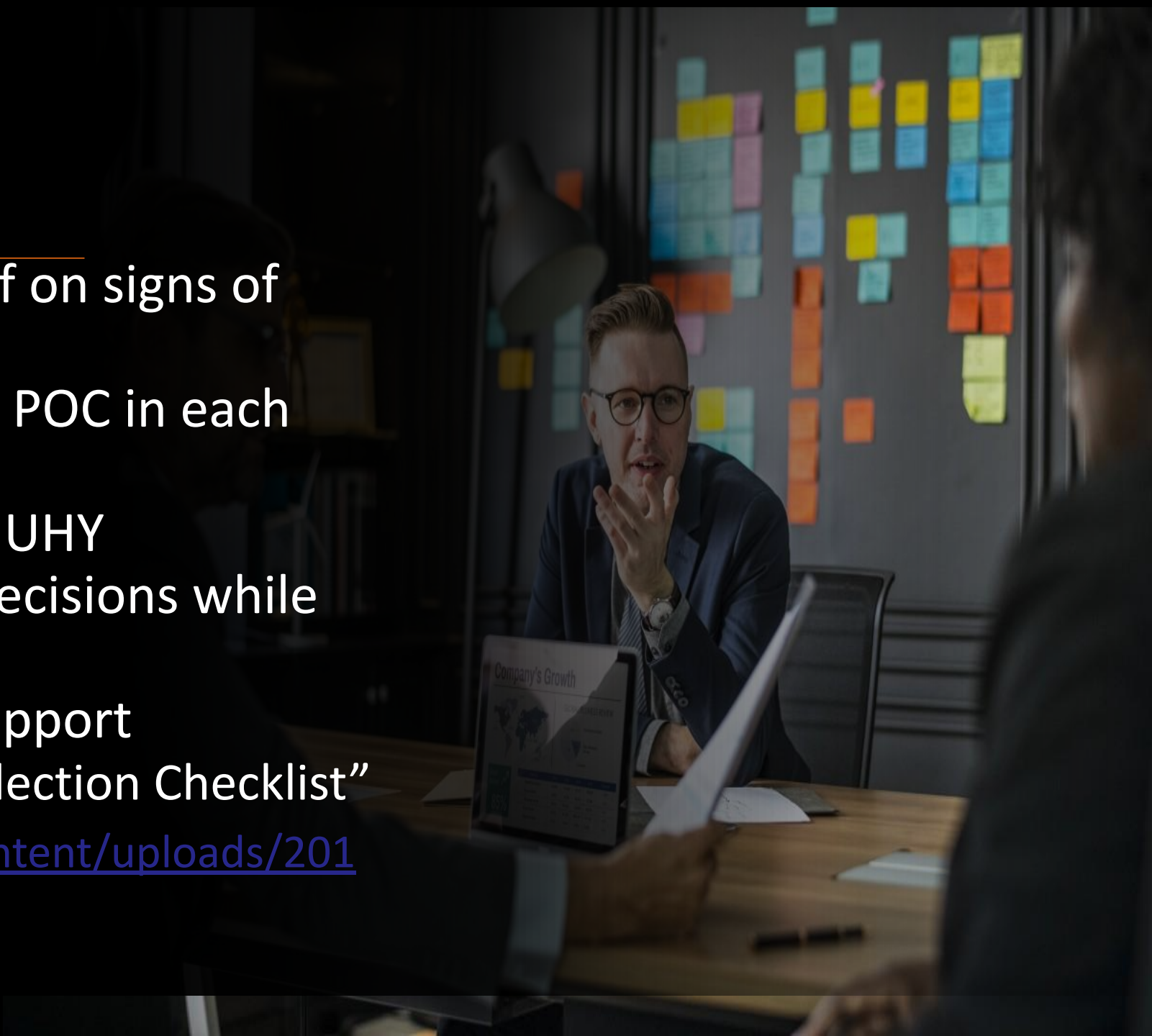
Eligibility Best Practices

- Meet students and parents in a private setting to maintain confidentiality
- Use residency questionnaires
- Collaborate with neighboring district liaisons to verify eligibility
- Do not call landlords, etc. to “verify” information



Enrollment Best Practices

- Train all enrollment staff on signs of homelessness
- Have a McKinney-Vento POC in each school
- Use caregiver forms for UHY
- Make best placement decisions while waiting on records
- Ensure administrator support
- Use the NCHC “School Selection Checklist”
- (https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/sch_sel_checklist.pdf)



Transportation Best Practices

- Develop a good relationship with transportation director
- Ask parent, “What is your plan?”
- Protect the child’s living situation
- If a bus cannot be arranged, consider bus passes, gas vouchers, mileage reimbursement (time delay)
- Rural counties face challenges so think creatively



Disputes Best Practices

- Can be filed on eligibility, school selection, and enrollment
- Make best effort to resolve disagreements before they become disputes
- Enroll child in school which enrollment is sought
- Provide written explanation, including the right to appeal
- Follow your district's policy



Top Tips From the Field

- Key in data regularly once site opens
- Keep school administrators in the know
- Attend community fairs, meetings, events
- Share data on numbers
- Share information on social media, school websites, pamphlets, etc.
- Ensure all staff know your role
- Seek donations and funding sources
- Join and attend CoC meetings
- Train key staff as personnel change
- Get to know your legislators and advocate



Tips From the Field

- Follow up on students once enrolled
- Create a safe and welcoming environment
- Ensure your referral system is clear and easy to follow
- Host annual trainings and trainings for new staff
- Partner with financial aid folks
- Assist students in completing the FAFSA and applying for services-SNAP,medicaid
- Become knowledgeable about and use trauma-informed approach



Top Tips From the Field

- Provide referrals to community providers
- Post educational rights and information
- Ensure parents/guardians understand their rights
- Ensure all students are identified and enrolled in school
- Collaborate both internally and externally
- Read, reference, and learn the McKinney-Vento Act
- Look for opportunities to network
- Get to know your students and families



Top Tips From the Field!

- Provide referrals to community providers
- Post educational rights and information in places where visible in community
- Collaborate both internally and externally
- Read, reference, and learn the McKinney-Vento Act
- Be visible and vigilant
- Look for opportunities to network
- Get to know your students and families



Top Tips From the Field!

- Follow up on students once enrolled
- Create a safe and welcoming environment
- Ensure your referral system is clear and easy to follow
- Host annual trainings and trainings for new staff
- Partner with financial aid folks
- Assist students in completing the FAFSA and applying for services-SNAP,medicaid
- Ensure good communication skills
- Become knowledgeable about and use trauma-informed approach



Top Tips From the Field!

- Key in data regularly once site opens
- Attend community fairs, meetings, events
- Share data on numbers
- Share information on social media, school websites, pamphlets, etc.
- Ensure posters are replaced as needed
- Seek donations and funding sources
- Join and attend CoC meetings
- Get to know your legislators and advocate



Pop Quiz

Show What You Know!

Which of the following is NOT a duty of a local homeless liaison?

A Ensure homeless students are not suspended from the bus.

B Ensure homeless students are enrolled in school immediately.

C Ensure LEA policies supercede federal mandates.

D Provide students with backpacks and school supplies.

Which of the following is NOT a duty of a local homeless liaison?

A Identify and serve children ages 0-5.

B Collaborate only with other homeless liaisons.

C Ensure that every staff member uses the Head Start app.

D Guarantee unaccompanied homeless youth enrollment in college of their choice.

Which of the following is NOT a duty of a local homeless liaison?

A Ensure posters are placed in public locations and schools.

B Attend and present at NAEHCY.

C Refer all enrollment disputes directly to the state coordinator's office.

D Ensure students attend field trips and the Prom.

Which of the following is a duty of a local homeless liaison?

A Ensure hotels provide rooms for homeless students.

B Ensure unaccompanied youth receive Fafsa verification.

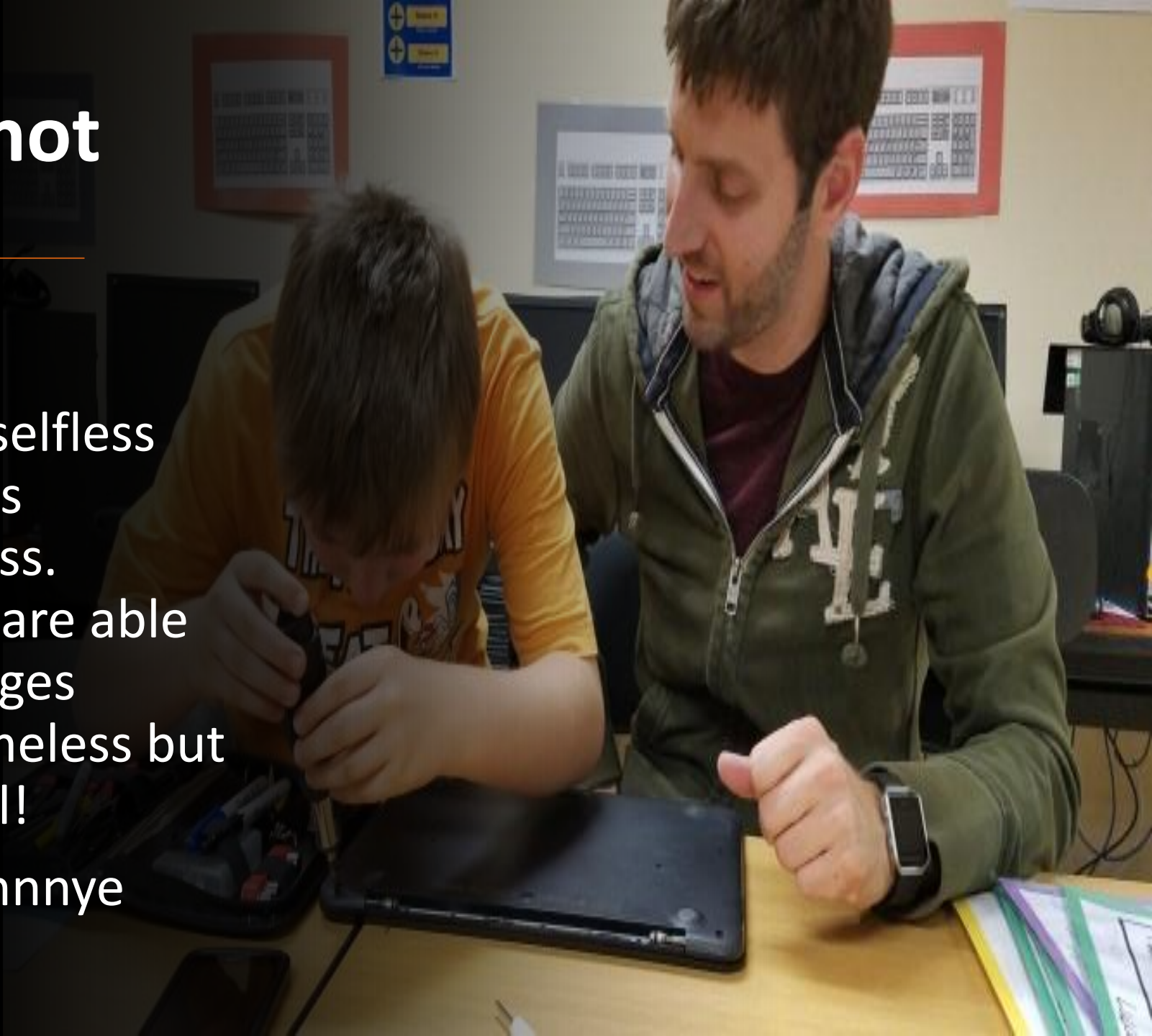
C Review and revise PSU policies so they are compliant with the McKinney-Vento Act.

D Ensure children awaiting foster care are included in data collection.

Homeless but not Hopeless!

Thank you for all of your selfless dedication to our students experiencing homelessness. Because of you, students are able to overcome life's challenges because they may be homeless but they must remain hopeful!

Pamela, Beth, and Dr. Johnnye





Questions
