Focusing first on students with the highest presenting needs helps to prevent these issues from causing future challenges for the student. Each district/school should establish and monitor metrics that are reflective of the unique needs of the students and families in your region. These metrics should be agreed upon and approved by your team and should be used universally and equitably.

Needs Metrics

1. Unaccompanied
2. Dwelling type
3. Grade
4. Pregnant/Parenting
5. Undocumented/New to the US
6. Meets criteria for chronic absenteeism
7. Credit Deficient
8. Has had one or more behavior referrals since the start of the school year
9. SpEd (IEP/504)

How to Prioritize Students Based on the Above Metrics

Individual circumstances should always be taken into account when prioritizing students.

1. **Unaccompanied**
   a. Yes = 1 risk factor
   b. No = 0 risk factor
2. **Dwelling type,** i.e. hotels/motels, shelters, unsheltered have higher priority than doubled up
   a. Hotels/motels, shelters, unsheltered, living in car, couch surfing = 1 risk factor
   b. Doubled up = 0 risk factor
      i. We fully recognize that being doubled up is a difficult situation and can be unstable.
3. **Grade**
   a. 12th and 11th graders = 1 risk factor
   b. 9th and 10th graders = 0 risk factor
   c. Prioritizing 12th and 11th graders to assist in connecting to post-secondary education, trade schools, FAFSA, building a resume, etc.
      i. Post-Graduation Reference Guide
4. **Pregnant/Parenting**
   a. Yes = 1 risk factor
   b. No = 0 risk factor
5. **Undocumented/New to the US**
   a. Yes = 1 risk factor
   b. No = 0 risk factor
6. **Meets criteria for chronic absenteeism**
   a. Yes = 1 risk factor
   b. No = 0 risk factor
7. **Credit Deficient**
   a. Yes = 1 risk factor
   b. No = 0 risk factor

8. **Has had one or more behavior referrals since the start of the school year**
   a. Yes = 1 risk factor
   b. No = 0 risk factor
9. **SpEd (IEP/504)**
   a. Yes = 1 risk factor
   b. No = 0 risk factor
   c. When looking at this metric we also want to consider how being involved in special education can provide students with additional support and services. The most "at-risk" youth within this metric are those who do not have an IEP or 504 plan but are in need of one.

Other Factors To Consider

There are so many factors that can be considered when prioritizing students/families, but we must be realistic in determining how many factors we can consider. Some questions to think about: Can I easily obtain this information? Can I pull this data from our student information system? How much does this impact our population? What factors will best identify the highest needs students within my school/district?

1. Demographic information
   a. Race
   b. Ethnicity
   c. LGBTQIA+
   d. Family size

2. Length of time qualified as McKinney-Vento

3. School mobility rate

4. Is the student working to help support the family?

5. Is the student responsible for taking care of younger siblings?

6. Willingness to engage in services

Liaison Information

Name	*E-mail*
Phone	*Location*