



UBA WEBINAR
Meeting the
Academic Needs
of Homeless Students

October 16th, 2024
12:00PM - 1:00PM EDT

Moderated by :

MICHELLE MCKISSACK
UBA Advisor

Memphis Shelby County School Board
Memphis, Tennessee



WEBINAR HOUSEKEEPING



ATTENDEES MUTED

All attendees are muted during the session. Questions will be taken at the end of the session.



RECORDING

Today's session is being recorded and will be posted on the COSSBA website for later viewing.



ASK QUESTIONS

Submit your questions via the Zoom toolbar - we will share at the end of the webinar.

TODAY'S PRESENTER

Mrs. Irene Hamilton - Jones

**McKinney - Vento Coordinator/ Homeless Liaison
Greenville County Schools
Greenville, South Carolina**



MEETING THE ACADEMIC NEEDS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS



Presented by
Irene Hamilton Jones



WELCOME

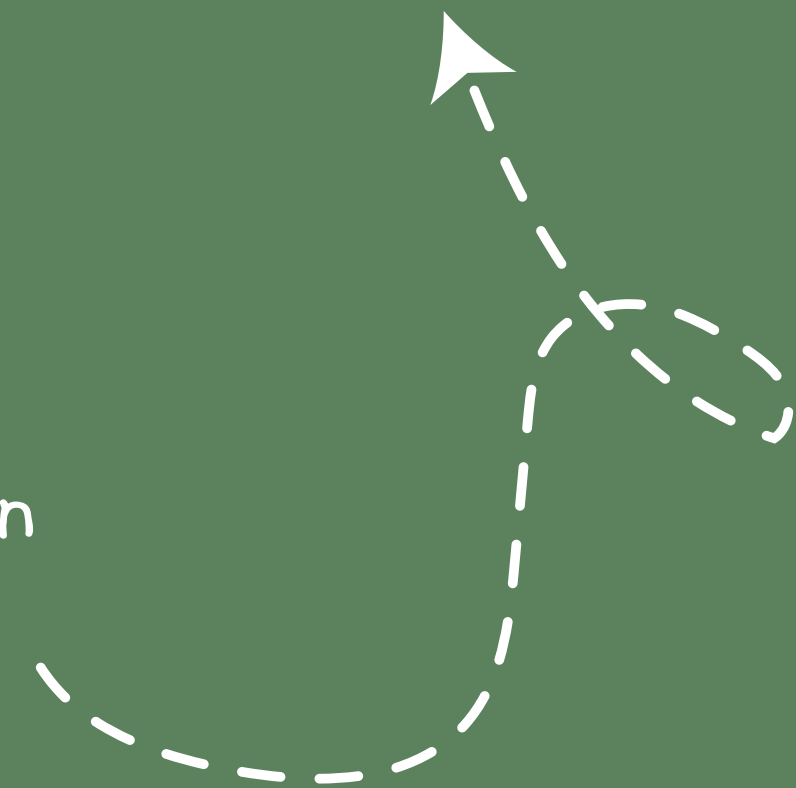
AGENDA

- Homelessness significantly impacts a student's ability to succeed academically
- Today, we will discuss strategies and resources to support these students in their educational journey



SIGNS OF HOMELESSNESS

- Frequent Absences
- Unpredictable Behavior
- Poor Hygiene
- Visible Signs of Distress
- Inconsistencies in Records
- Lack of School Supplies
- Reluctance to Share Personal Information
- Expressions of Financial Strain
- Unstable Living Situations
- Changes in Academic Performance



UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS



*Federal
Law*

- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a critical piece of U.S. federal legislation aimed at addressing the educational needs of homeless children and youth. Here are the key aspects of the McKinney-Vento Act as it relates to education:



UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS



primary goal

The primary goal of the McKinney-Vento Act is to ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth. The Act aims to REMOVE barriers to enrollment, attendance, and success in school for homeless students.



DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

- Share housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing.
- Live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Reside in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Are migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.



UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS



Let's
DEFINE

- McKinney-Vento: lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- Types of Homelessness: Sheltered, Unsheltered, Double up, Hotel/Motel





KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT



School Stability

- School of Origin: Homeless children have the right to remain in their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled) for the duration of their homelessness.
- Best Interest: Decisions regarding the school placement of homeless children should be made in their best interest, with a preference for keeping children in their school of origin unless it is against the parents' or guardians' wishes.





KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT



Immediate Enrollment

Homeless children and youth must be immediately enrolled in school, even if they lack the normally required documents (e.g., proof of residency, immunization records, birth certificates, previous school records).





KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT



Transportation

School districts must provide transportation to and from the school of origin if requested by the parent or guardian (or by the liaison on behalf of unaccompanied youth).





KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT



Free Meals

Homeless students are automatically eligible for free school meals.





KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT



Educational Services

Schools must provide homeless students with services comparable to those offered to other students, including transportation, educational services, and programs for which they are eligible.





KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT



Liaison

Every school district must designate a local liaison for homeless children and youth. This liaison ensures that homeless children and youth are identified and receive appropriate services.



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights of Parents
and Students

Responsibilities of
School and Districts




Rights of Parents and Students


Parents and students must be informed of their rights under the McKinney-Vento Act, including the right to dispute decisions made by the school regarding eligibility, school selection, or enrollment.



Responsibilities of School and Districts



Schools and districts are required to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless students. This includes revising policies that may act as barriers to the education of homeless children and youth.





IMPACT ON EDUCATION

The McKinney-Vento Act has had a significant impact on ensuring that homeless children and youth receive a stable and continuous education. It helps mitigate the challenges associated with frequent moves and the lack of stability that can severely affect educational outcomes. The Act aims to level the playing field for some of the most vulnerable students by providing support and resources.



Mental Health On Homeless Students

Homelessness can significantly impact a student's mental health in numerous ways, often exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and creating new challenges. Here are the primary ways in which homelessness affects mental health:

Mental Health On Homeless Students

1a. Increased Anxiety and Stress

Uncertainty and Instability:

Homelessness often means frequent moves between shelters, temporary housing, or staying with different family members. This lack of stability creates a sense of uncertainty and anxiety, as students don't know where they will sleep, or what tomorrow holds.



Mental Health On Homeless Students

1b. Academic Pressure:

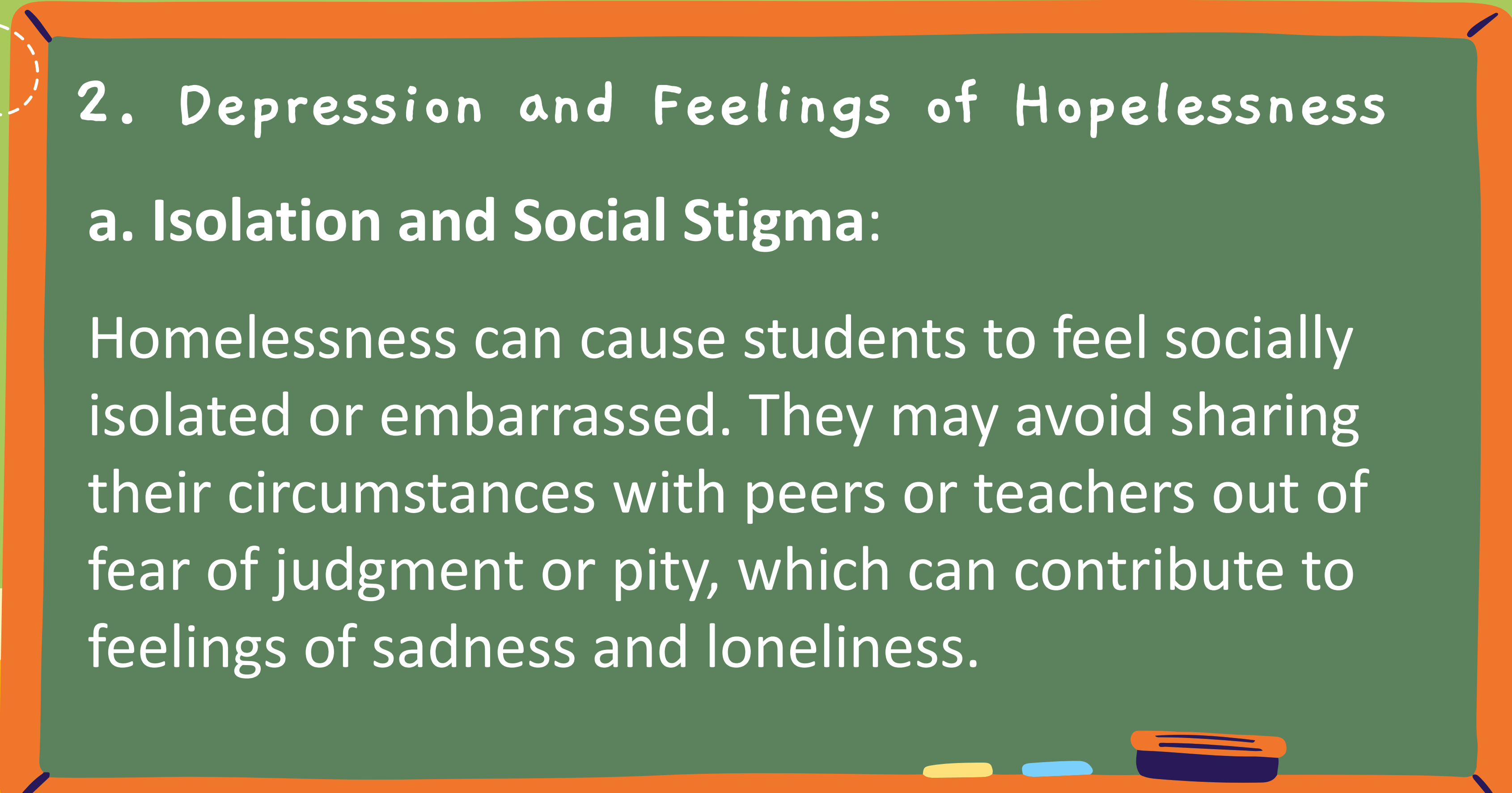
Homeless students may feel overwhelmed by trying to keep up with schoolwork while managing stress from their living situation, which can lead to academic underperformance and increased stress.



2. Depression and Feelings of Hopelessness

a. Isolation and Social Stigma:

Homelessness can cause students to feel socially isolated or embarrassed. They may avoid sharing their circumstances with peers or teachers out of fear of judgment or pity, which can contribute to feelings of sadness and loneliness.

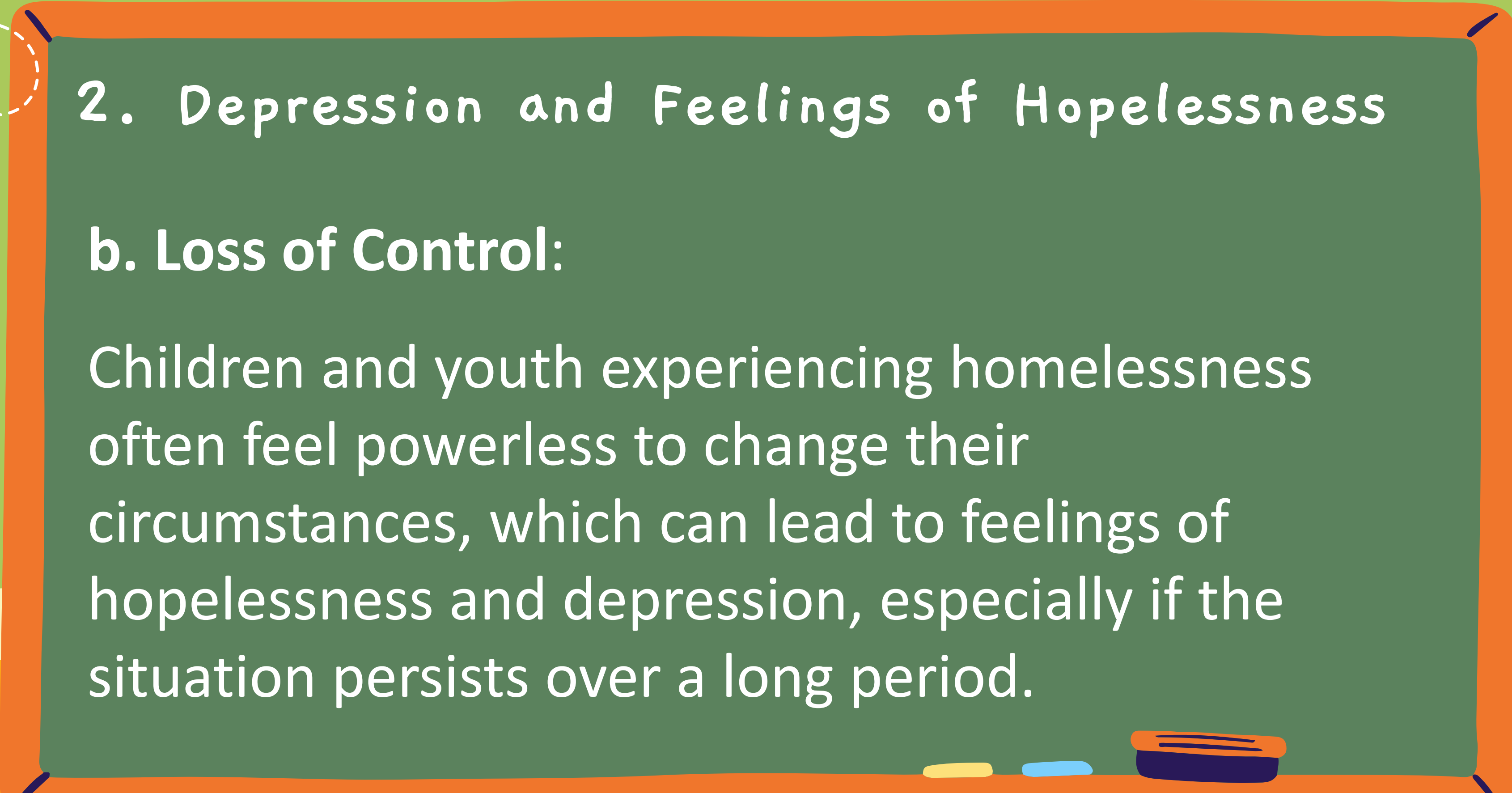




2. Depression and Feelings of Hopelessness

b. Loss of Control:

Children and youth experiencing homelessness often feel powerless to change their circumstances, which can lead to feelings of hopelessness and depression, especially if the situation persists over a long period.






3. Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

a. Exposure to traumatic events:

Homeless students are more likely to be exposed to traumatic situations, such as domestic violence, abuse, or witnessing crime. The instability and unsafe environments associated with homelessness can lead to PTSD or other trauma-related symptoms.





3. Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

b. Separation from Family:

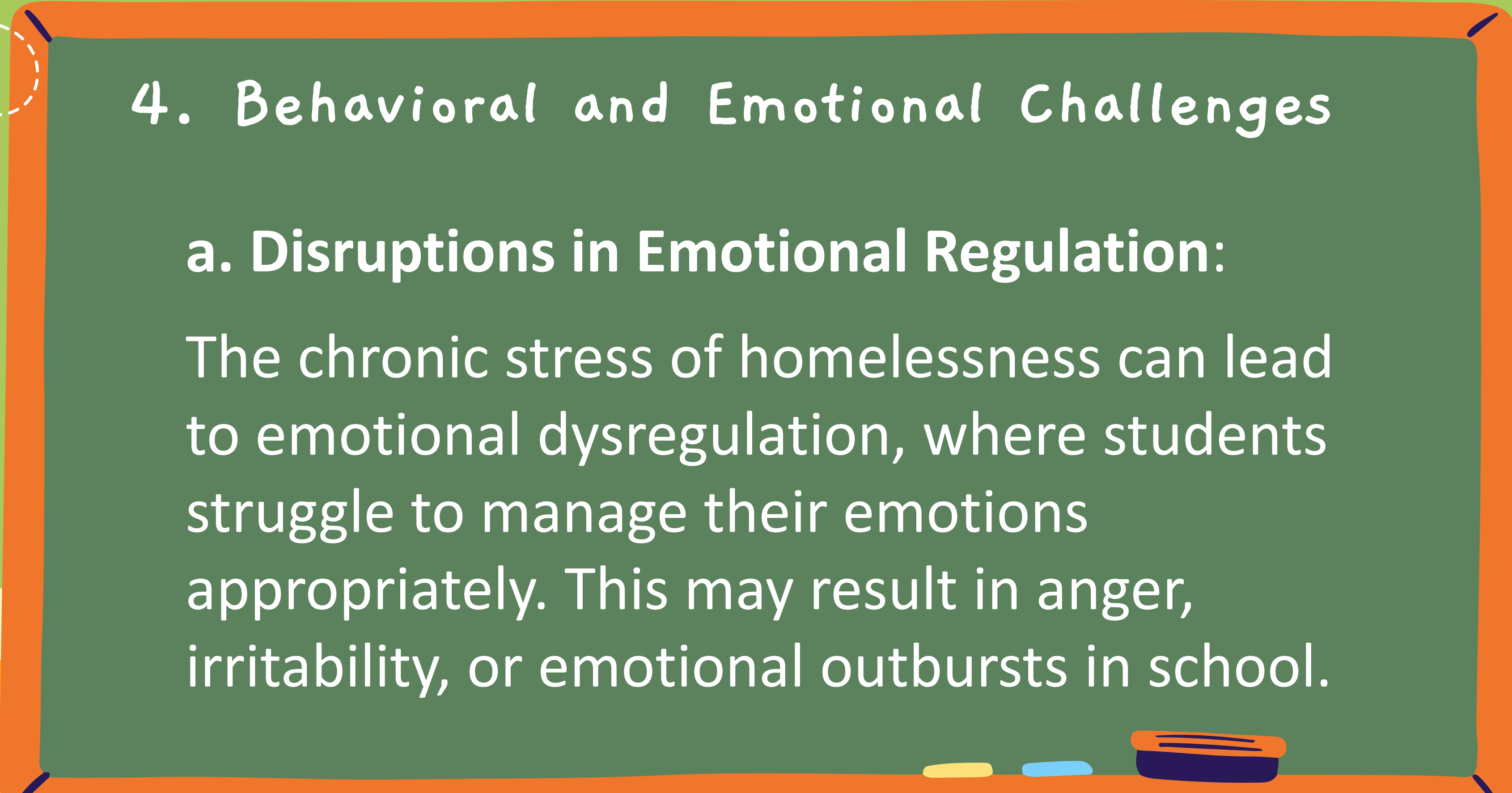
In some cases, children experiencing homelessness may be separated from their parents or caregivers, further contributing to trauma and emotional distress.



4. Behavioral and Emotional Challenges

a. Disruptions in Emotional Regulation:

The chronic stress of homelessness can lead to emotional dysregulation, where students struggle to manage their emotions appropriately. This may result in anger, irritability, or emotional outbursts in school.






4b. Behavioral and Emotional Challenges

Attention and Hyperactivity Issues:

Stress from homelessness can affect a child's ability to focus, leading to difficulties concentrating, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness, which can be mistaken for attention disorders.






5. Increase Risk of Substance Abuse

Coping Mechanism:

Older students who experience homelessness are at greater risk of engaging in unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as substance abuse, as a way to escape or numb the emotional pain caused by their circumstances.

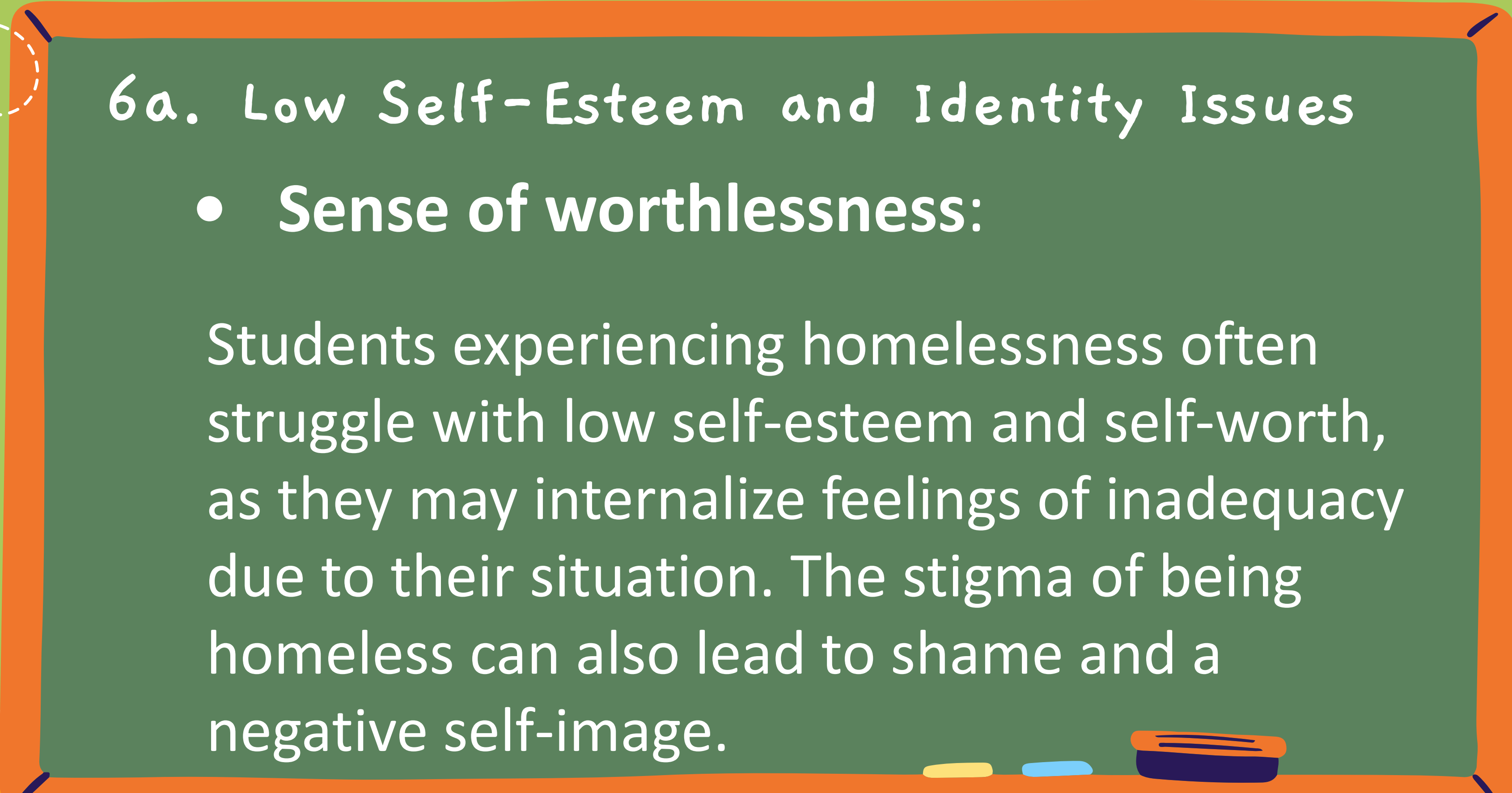




6a. Low Self-Esteem and Identity Issues

- **Sense of worthlessness:**

Students experiencing homelessness often struggle with low self-esteem and self-worth, as they may internalize feelings of inadequacy due to their situation. The stigma of being homeless can also lead to shame and a negative self-image.





6b. Low Self-Esteem and Identity Issues

- **Identity confusion:**

The lack of stability and consistency in their lives can cause students to feel lost, unsure of who they are or where they belong.



7a. Disrupted Relationships and Lack of Trust

- **Strained family relationships:**


Homelessness can strain family relationships, leading to conflict and stress. In some cases, children may feel neglected or unsupported, further affecting their emotional well-being.



7b. Disrupted Relationships and Lack of Trust

- **Difficulty forming relationships**

The instability of homelessness can make it hard for students to form or maintain meaningful relationships, both with peers and adults. A lack of trust in others can develop due to frequent disruptions in their lives.






8a. Sleep Deprivation and Fatigue

- **Inadequate sleeping conditions**

Many homeless students have difficulty finding safe and quiet places to sleep, leading to chronic sleep deprivation. This can exacerbate existing mental health conditions, such as anxiety and depression, and impair cognitive functioning and emotional regulation.





8b. Disrupted Relationships and Lack of Trust

- **Impact on mood and behavior**

Lack of sleep can increase irritability, decrease coping skills, and lead to more frequent emotional and behavioral challenges in school.



9a. Suicidal Thoughts or Behaviors

- **Severe emotional distress:**

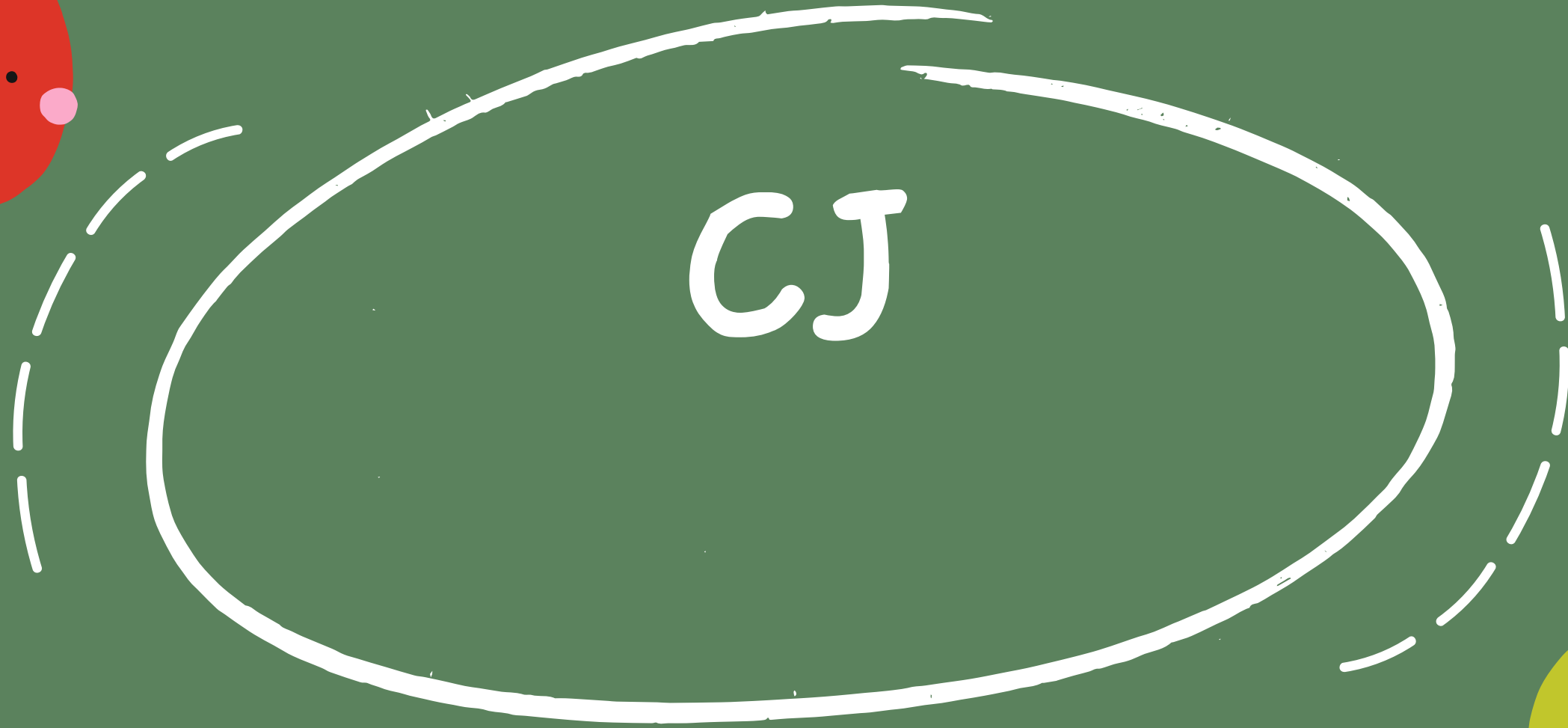
The chronic stress, isolation, and hopelessness that accompany homelessness can contribute to suicidal thoughts or behaviors, particularly if the student feels trapped in their situation with no foreseeable way out.



10a. Difficulty Accessing Mental Health Services

- **Barriers to care:**

Homeless students often face barriers to accessing mental health services due to lack of transportation, inconsistent contact information, or an inability to pay for services. This lack of support further compounds their mental health challenges.



Choose the best idea as a solution.





CONCLUSION



Homelessness creates an environment of chronic stress, trauma, and instability, all of which take a significant toll on a student's mental health. Without proper support, these challenges can have long-term effects on a child's emotional well-being, academic performance, and overall development.





CONCLUSION



Overall, the McKinney-Vento Act is an essential framework for supporting the educational needs of homeless children and youth, ensuring they have the opportunity to succeed academically despite their housing challenges.



Greenville County Schools

THANK YOU

I hope this has been informative for you.

Irene Hamilton Jones, MAT

McKinney-Vento Coordinator

ihamilto@greenville.k12.sc.us

864-355-7366



Q & A

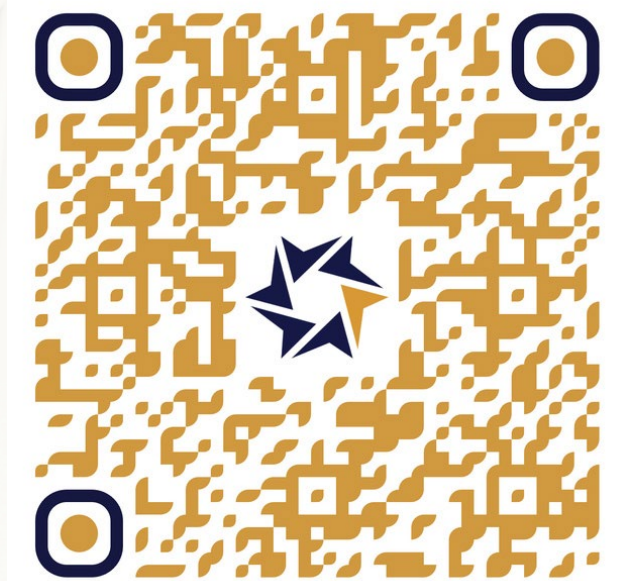
Submit your questions via the Zoom toolbar or raise your hand to be unmuted.



UPCOMING WEBINARS



**School Crisis and Tragedy:
The Board's Role and Responsibility**
January 14th, 2025 | 12:00PM - 1:00PM EST





UBA Pre -Conference Featured Speakers



Dr. Bernice A. King

Daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Closing Keynote Presenter



Dr. John W. Hodge

Opening Keynote Presenter



March 20, 2025

**A Deeper
Dive**

VISIT [COSSBA.ORG/UBA -PRECONFERENCE](https://COSSBA.ORG/UBA-PRECONFERENCE)
FOR MORE INFORMATION



**THANK
YOU!**

