

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERED HOMELESS

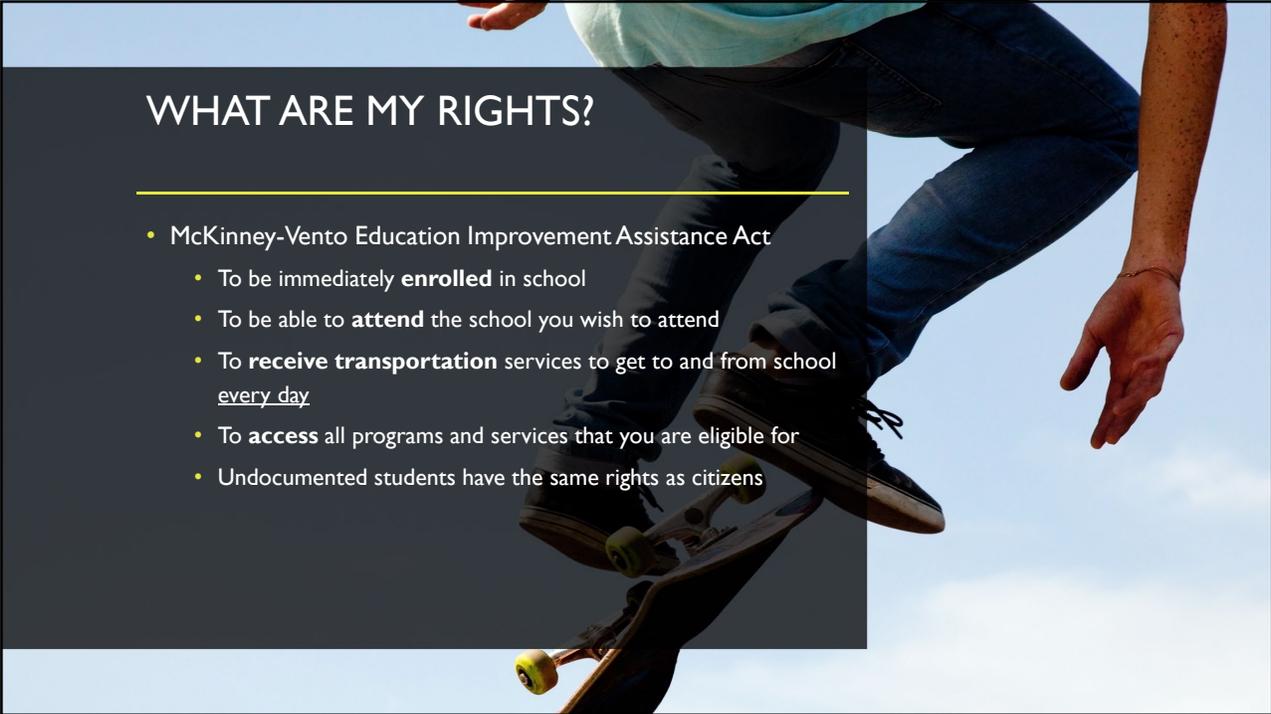
(NAME, DATE)



WOULD I BE CONSIDERED HOMELESS?

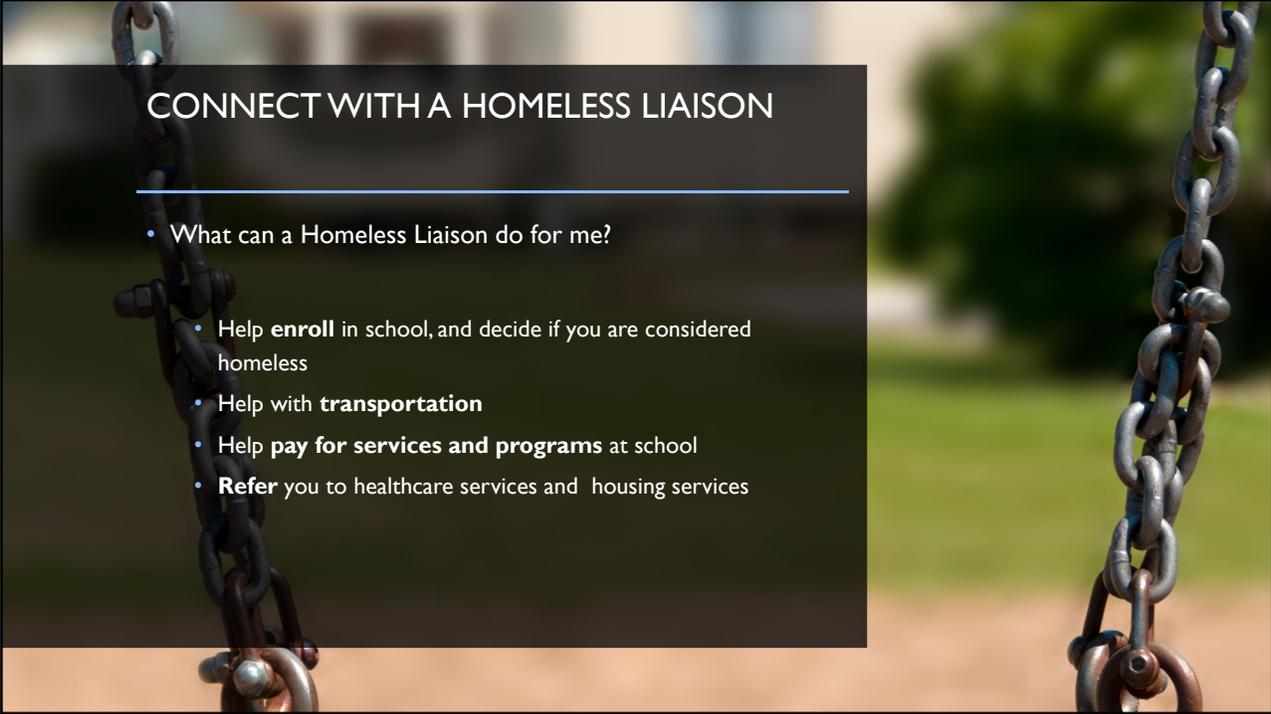
Yes, if you lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** place to live or sleep at night.

- Living in a shelter
- Couch surfing
- Living in a car or in a campsite
- Living outside, in a tent, an abandoned building, or park
- Living in a trailer, camper, garage, or basement
- Being doubled-up (e.g. having to share a living space)



WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

- McKinney-Vento Education Improvement Assistance Act
 - To be immediately **enrolled** in school
 - To be able to **attend** the school you wish to attend
 - To **receive transportation** services to get to and from school every day
 - To **access** all programs and services that you are eligible for
 - Undocumented students have the same rights as citizens



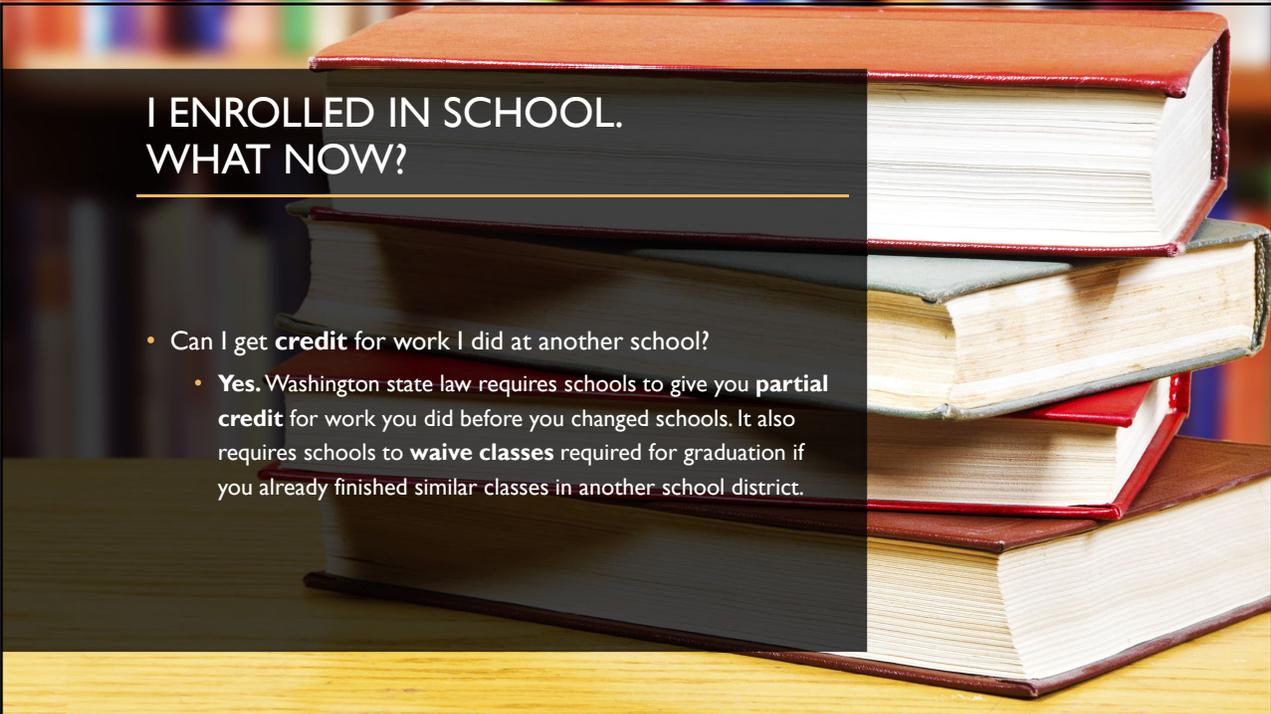
CONNECT WITH A HOMELESS LIAISON

- What can a Homeless Liaison do for me?
 - Help **enroll** in school, and decide if you are considered homeless
 - Help with **transportation**
 - Help **pay for services and programs** at school
 - **Refer** you to healthcare services and housing services



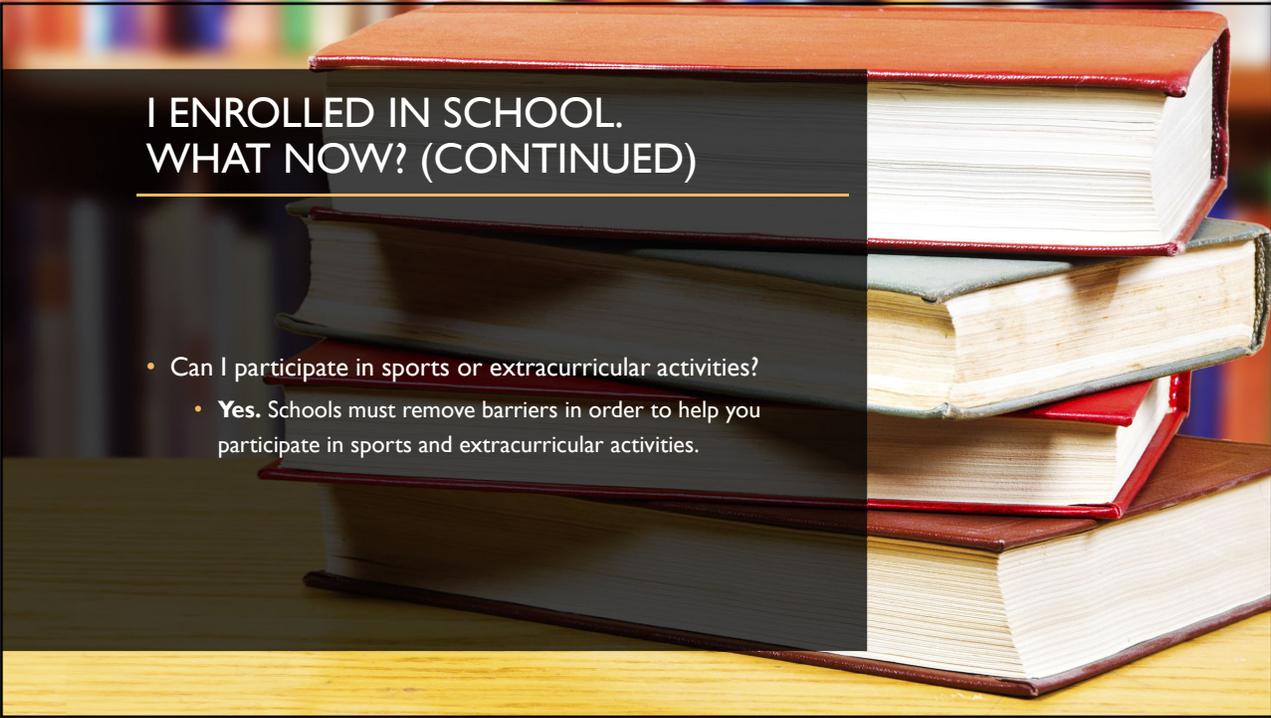
UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

- What does it mean?
 - If you are **living on your own**, without a parent or guardian
- What are my rights?
 - You can **enroll yourself** in school
 - Talk to your Homeless Liaison for **medical care**



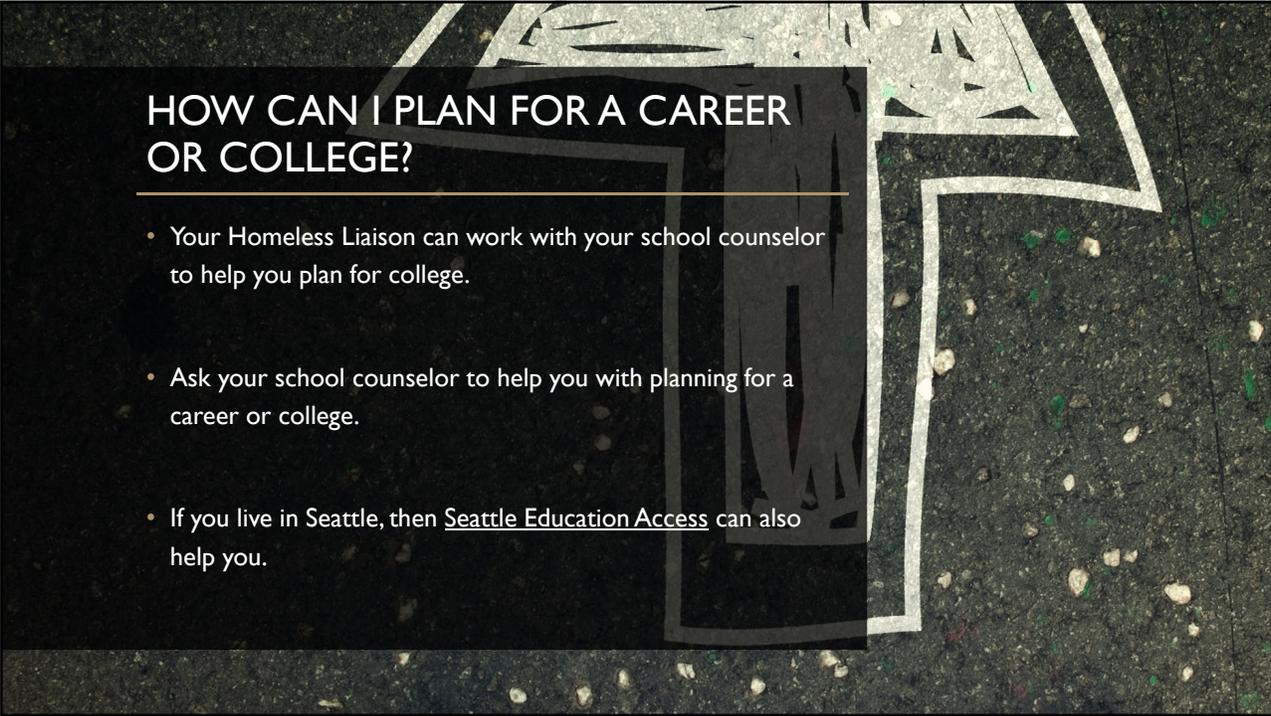
I ENROLLED IN SCHOOL. WHAT NOW?

- Can I get **credit** for work I did at another school?
 - **Yes.** Washington state law requires schools to give you **partial credit** for work you did before you changed schools. It also requires schools to **waive classes** required for graduation if you already finished similar classes in another school district.



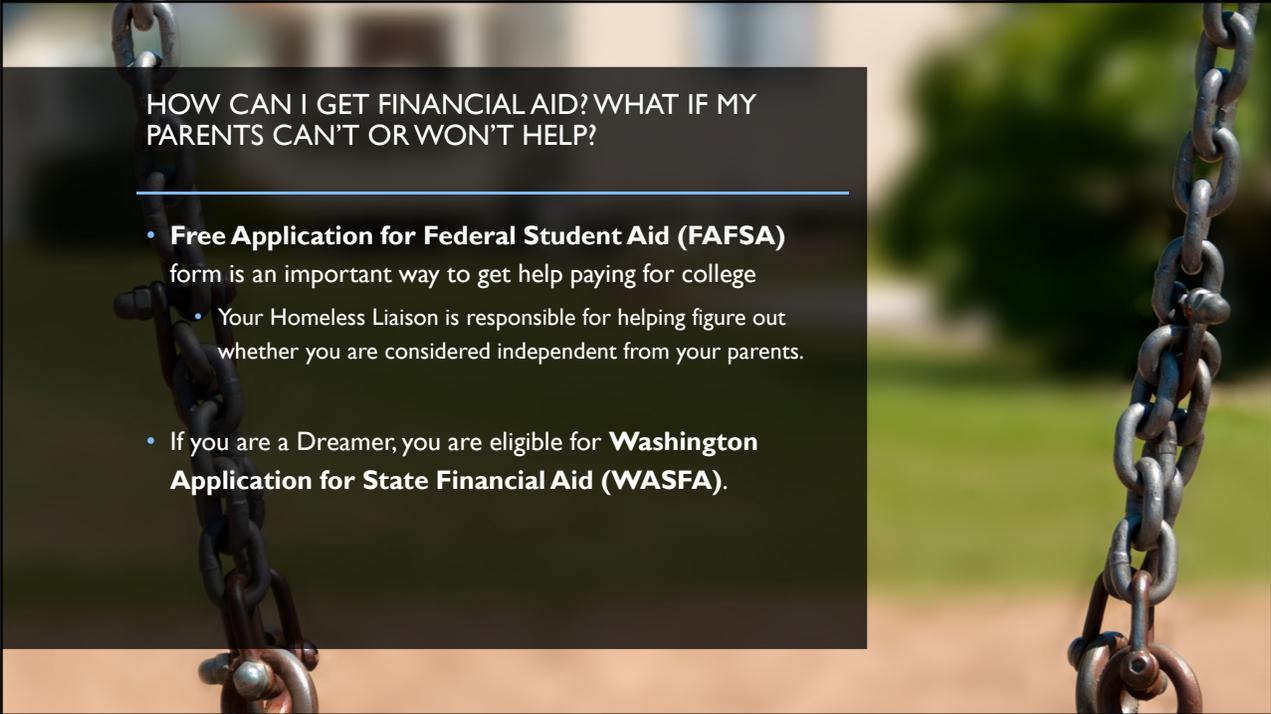
I ENROLLED IN SCHOOL. WHAT NOW? (CONTINUED)

- Can I participate in sports or extracurricular activities?
 - **Yes.** Schools must remove barriers in order to help you participate in sports and extracurricular activities.



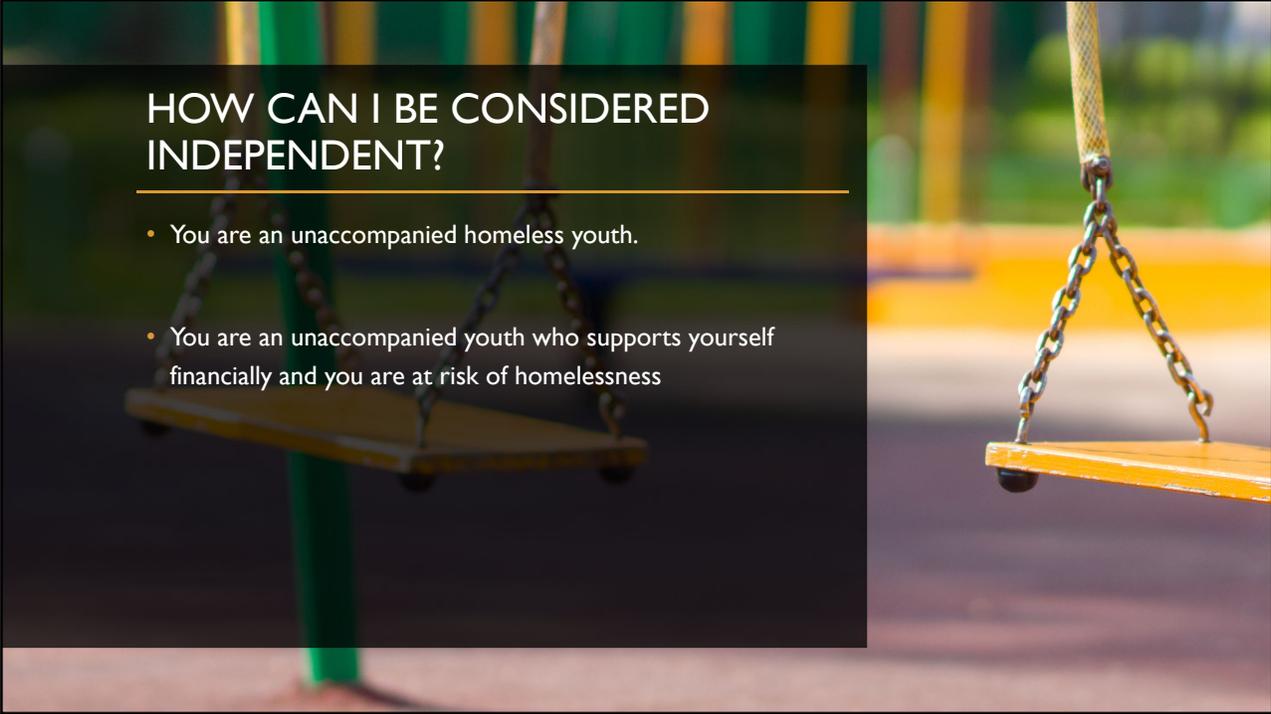
HOW CAN I PLAN FOR A CAREER OR COLLEGE?

- Your Homeless Liaison can work with your school counselor to help you plan for college.
- Ask your school counselor to help you with planning for a career or college.
- If you live in Seattle, then [Seattle Education Access](#) can also help you.



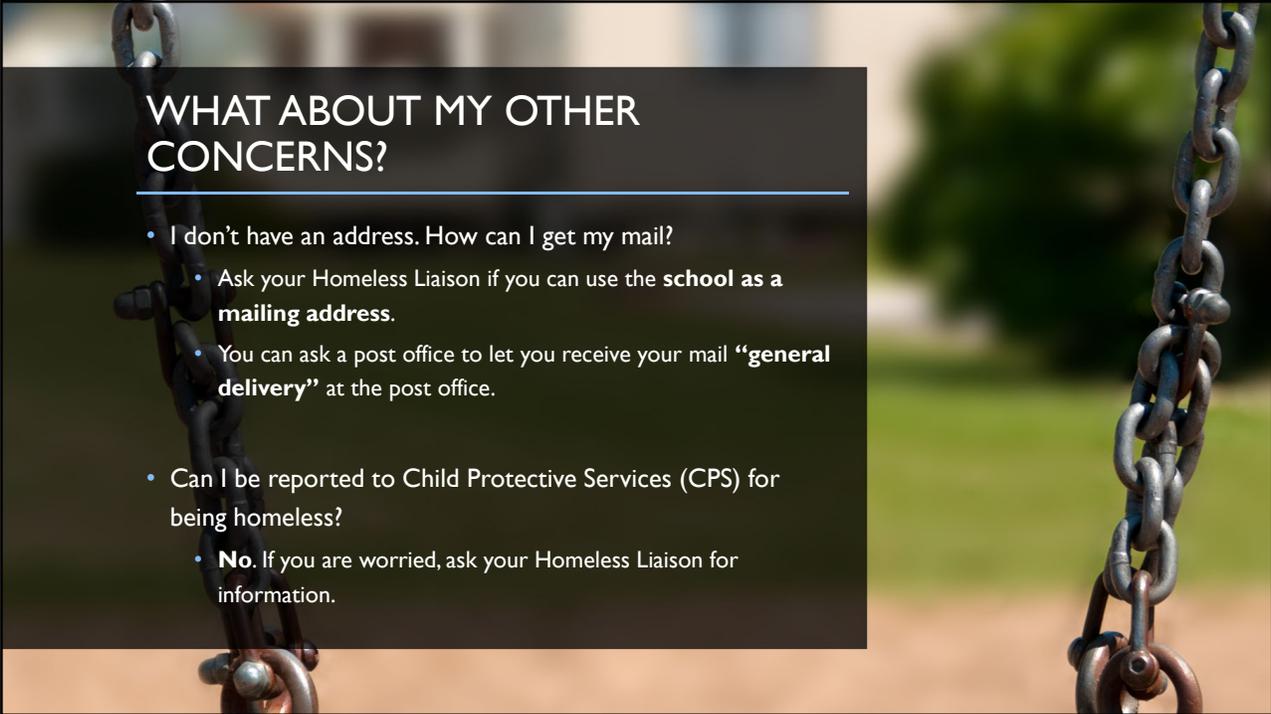
HOW CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID? WHAT IF MY PARENTS CAN'T OR WON'T HELP?

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form is an important way to get help paying for college
 - Your Homeless Liaison is responsible for helping figure out whether you are considered independent from your parents.
- If you are a Dreamer, you are eligible for **Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)**.



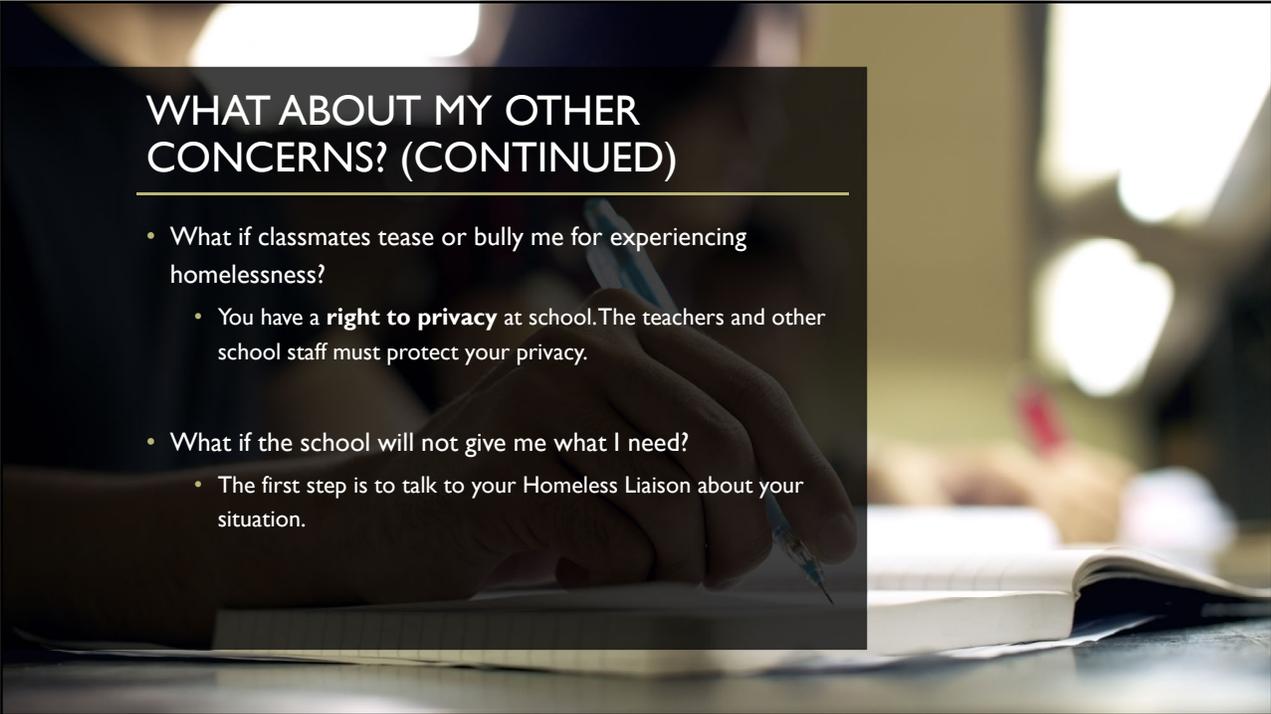
HOW CAN I BE CONSIDERED INDEPENDENT?

- You are an unaccompanied homeless youth.
- You are an unaccompanied youth who supports yourself financially and you are at risk of homelessness



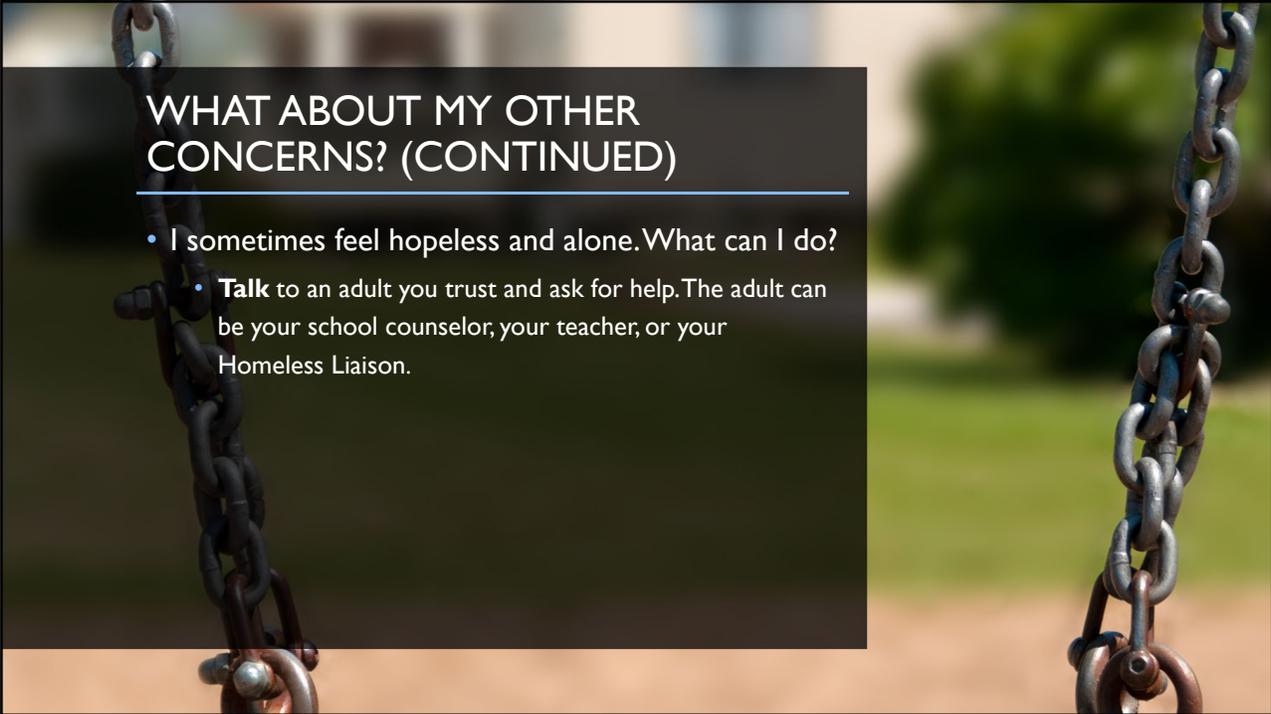
WHAT ABOUT MY OTHER CONCERNS?

- I don't have an address. How can I get my mail?
 - Ask your Homeless Liaison if you can use the **school as a mailing address**.
 - You can ask a post office to let you receive your mail “**general delivery**” at the post office.
- Can I be reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) for being homeless?
 - **No**. If you are worried, ask your Homeless Liaison for information.



WHAT ABOUT MY OTHER CONCERNS? (CONTINUED)

- What if classmates tease or bully me for experiencing homelessness?
 - You have a **right to privacy** at school. The teachers and other school staff must protect your privacy.
- What if the school will not give me what I need?
 - The first step is to talk to your Homeless Liaison about your situation.



WHAT ABOUT MY OTHER CONCERNS? (CONTINUED)

- I sometimes feel hopeless and alone. What can I do?
 - **Talk** to an adult you trust and ask for help. The adult can be your school counselor, your teacher, or your Homeless Liaison.



HOW CAN I ADVOCATE FOR MYSELF AT SCHOOL?

Here are some tips about how to be an effective self-advocate:

1. Gather and organize relevant paperwork.
2. Do research to understand your rights.
3. Plan what you need to say. Make sure you know what you are asking for and stay calm.

WHERE CAN I GET LEGAL ADVICE OR LEGAL REPRESENTATION?

- CLEAR: Call 1-888-201-1014 (M-F, 9:15am- 12:15pm)
 - <https://nwjustice.org/clear-hotline>
- Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC): intake on Wednesdays 12:30pm-1:30pm at Youthcare's James Ray Orion Center, 1828 Yale Ave, seattle, WA 98101
 - <http://lcywa.com/contact/>
- TeamChild: Call 1-877-295-2714 or email question@teamchild.org
 - <https://teamchild.org/legalservices/>

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Children and Youth Project,
Columbia Legal Services
cyp@columbialegal.org

