

ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (McKinney-Vento Act)

The **McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act** is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve students experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as "lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." Some examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotel, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

Rights of the Student:

Under the McKinney-Vento Act you have a right to an education without barriers, which means you can:

- Enroll regardless of ability to present student records and immunizations
- Receive assistance with securing necessary school and medical documents, records, and immunizations

- **Attend school of origin or school of residence**
- **Continue attending school of origin for the remainder of the school year after permanent housing is secured**
- **Gain equal access to programs available to other students (EL, Title 1, Special Education)**
- **District transportation to/from school of origin/residence**
- **Receive free school meals**
- **Be referred to community resources and agencies**

For more information:

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