

McKinney-Vento: Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act

AND THE SCHOOL SECRETARY



What you as the first line of contact need to know...

- What to say
- What the law (McKinney-Vento) says
- Who is homeless
- Who is your district coordinator for McKinney-Vento

Gatekeepers



School secretaries are the gatekeepers.

You...

- Set the tone of the conversation
- Provide the link for successful access to school
- Ask the right questions
- Refer to your district coordinator

Set the tone...

People don't want to be categorized as homeless,
so...

- Respect is key
- Tact is critical

Link for Successful School Access



You would like to enroll your child in our school?

❖ *We are happy to have you.*

Provide parent, guardian with info such as:

❖ *Brochure on the school or district*

Ask:

❖ *“Are there any circumstances that we should be aware of?”*

❖ *“Are you currently sharing housing with a relative or friend?”*

Ask the right questions



- You want to withdraw your child?
- Are you moving?
- Is there something we could help you with?
- Where are you moving to?
- Is Grandma's going to be a temporary stay?
- You know there are some instances when a child can stay in their school even when they change address?

If they say this
may be
temporary...



- You are not sure if you are staying?
- Are you just checking us out?
- Is there anything I can help you with?
- If they say that housing is an issue, you could say-"Are you staying with relative or friends temporarily?"

THE FACE OF HOMELESSNESS
KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES



REMEMBER

Anyone can become homeless, you, your neighbor.

Hard times can hit us all.

The Law: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Reauthorized 2002 by NCLB

Provides:

- School stability
- School access
- Support for academic success
- Child-centered, best interest decision making

McKinney-Vento

- States who is homeless
- School's responsibilities regarding
 - Enrollment
 - Transportation
 - Services
 - Dispute Resolution
 - Unaccompanied youth

Eligibility- Who is Homeless?

Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Children awaiting foster care placement
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc..
- Migratory living in circumstances described above

School Stability & Selection

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness can stay in their school of origin.
- School of origin—school attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled.
- Students can stay in their school of origin the entire time they are homeless, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.
- Best interest—keep students who are homeless in their school of origin, to the extent feasible, unless against the parents' or guardians' wishes.
- If a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, the district must provide a written explanation to the parent or guardian of its decision and the right to appeal.

Enrollment



- Children and youth in homeless situations can stay in their school of origin (to the extent feasible) or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.
- The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities.
- Children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents.
- If a student does not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the HC must immediately assist in obtaining them, and the student must be enrolled in the interim.



Enroll Now

Enrollment

- Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.
- Schools must maintain records for students who are homeless so they are available quickly.
- Federal law supersedes state and local laws where there is conflict. [U.S. Constitution, Article VI]
- Districts must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers.

Access to Services

Students who experience homelessness must have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including special education, programs for English learners, gifted and talented programs, voc./tech. programs, and after school activities.



Transportation

- Districts must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the district's request for unaccompanied youth).
- If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, students must be provided like services.



Unaccompanied Youth

Definition: youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

HC must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school.

School personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.

Riverview Gardens- Students in Transition Program

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Any questions?