

The McKinney-Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Act is part of the No Child Left Behind legislation, which protects the rights of homeless children and youths and their families. The Act confers certain responsibilities to state and local education agencies and provides funding to help remove barriers to the education of homeless children and youths, ensuring their enrollment, attendance, and success in school. Students' rights under the McKinney-Vento Act include:

- ***The right to enroll immediately, even without the required paperwork.***
Schools normally require parents/guardians to provide birth certificates, proof of residency, school records, and medical records when they enroll their children. Homeless students can be enrolled without these documents, which can then be presented at a later date.
- ***The right to school placement in the student's best interest.***
Students protected under the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act may attend the school they attended when they were permanently housed (school of origin) or the school where they are temporarily staying. Homeless children may attend their school of origin even if they are not currently staying in that district. This right extends through the duration of the student's homelessness or until the end of the school year during which the family achieves permanent housing.
- ***The right to transportation services.***
Schools must provide students with transportation to their school if feasible until permanent housing is obtained. Parents needing this service for their children should contact their school's McKinney-Vento liaison.
- ***The right to other services.***
The fees for meals provided by the school as well as the fees for textbooks should be waived for homeless students. Homeless students are automatically eligible for comparable Title I services, which may include tutoring or other assistance to support the student's educational program.
- ***The right to appeal decisions regarding enrollment and services.***
Any decision concerning a student's school enrollment or the services that a student receives (such as transportation) may be appealed. The school's McKinney-Vento liaison should be contacted immediately to assist with the appeal. While the dispute with the school district is being resolved, the student has the right to attend the school or receive the services in question.
- ***The right to attend school and school activities without the fear of being singled out.***
Students in unstable housing situations cannot be separated from their peers just because of their housing situation. Homeless students have the right to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities to the same extent as other students attending that school.

All school corporations must have at least one McKinney-Vento liaison. The liaison's role is to help families in homeless situations with school related issues. The McKinney-Vento liaison is also available to assist youth without parents or guardians. McKinney-Vento liaisons for the Carmel Clay Schools are provided on the back of this sheet.