The McKinney-Vento Law
Immediate enrollment in school for all children
Supports for families and students

The intention of the federal McKinney-Vento law is to remove all barriers to enrollment, attendance, and academic success that children and youth who do not have permanent housing might face.

The McKinney-Vento law provides for rights and services to families and students who lack “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

- A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- A regular residence is one which is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis.
- An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

International law defines adequate as follows:
“ Adequate shelter means ... adequate privacy, adequate space, adequate security, adequate lighting and ventilation, adequate basic infrastructure and adequate location with regard to work and basic facilities - all at a reasonable cost.”

Some of the living situations that qualify under this definition are:
- Sheltered (EFAA, Safehouse, youth shelter, emergency/temporary foster care, etc.)
- Doubled Up due to Economic Hardship with Family or Friends
- Unsheltered (Cars, Parks, Campgrounds, etc)
- Hotels/Motels
- and many other situations that may be fixed and regular but not adequate, like utilities are off, space is too small, no food.

Services and Rights under McKinney-Vento:
- Immediate Enrollment – even if lacking address and documents
- Free Lunch and Breakfast – without filling out an application
- School Stability – when possible
- Transportation – when appropriate
- Referrals for any needed services
- Waiver of all School Fees
- Programs and services to insure academic success
- Confidentiality

Please contact the Boulder Valley School District McKinney-Vento Specialist:
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