



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Notations for Providers
Kalispell Public Schools
SD #5

What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

- The McKinney-Vento Act provides homeless students and families the opportunity to receive additional tutoring, mentoring, advocacy and support.

Why is the Act in place?

- Kalispell's homeless are increasingly working families with school age children.
- Changing schools greatly impedes students' academic and social growth.
- A rule of thumb is that it takes a child four to six months to recover academically after changing schools.
- Almost 75% of highly mobile children perform below grade level in reading and spelling, and more than half perform below grade level in math.



History of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Subtitle B-Education for Homeless Children and Youth), reauthorized in January 2002, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. It provides grants and legal protections so children and youth in homeless situations can enroll in, attend, and succeed in school and preschool programs.



McKinney-Vento Services

For Students in SD#5:

- Continued enrollment at current school
- Transportation
- Tutorial services
- Transferring records



McKinney-Vento Services

For Families in Kalispell SD#5



- **Family support**
- **School Counselors serving as school liaisons**
- **Information on community resources**
- **Transition assistance for families who are no longer homeless**



Who is Homeless according to the McKinney Act?

- Families doubled up with friends or family members
- Families or individuals staying in parks or camp grounds
- Children or youth placed in foster homes due to lack of shelter space
- Families staying in motels or shelters
- Families staying in “safe houses” due to domestic violence



Can other students be served?

- **Families considered “at-risk” of homelessness are also eligible.**
 - “At-risk” families may have experienced previous homelessness or are at risk of eviction.
 - Families who have moved multiple times throughout the school year.



A Few Methods to Determine Homeless Families:

- **Mailing Labels:** note occurrences of the same address for more than one family
- **Familiarity with Motel Addresses:** Keep on hand a listing of the low-cost motels in Kalispell
- **Incomplete or Unusual Enrollment Records:** Enrollment records, or lack of records, may help identify homeless children





A Few Methods to Determine Homeless Families:

■ Statements made by Children and their Parents:

- *“Our address is new; I can’t remember it.”*
- *“I don’t know where we live.”*
- *“We’ve been moved around a lot.”*
- *“We’re going through a bad time right now.”*
- *“I don’t remember the name of our previous school.”*
- *“We’re staying with relatives until we get settled.”*

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: The Law

Homeless parents have educational rights for their children including:

1. **Immediate enrollment:** Homeless children must be admitted immediately with or without school or medical records.
2. **Choice of schools:** Homeless parents have the right to decide, along with the school, whether it is in the best interest and feasible for their child to:
 - a) attend the school of origin which would allow the child to stay in the same school he or she attended before becoming homeless; or
 - b) transfer to the school nearest the shelter or other temporary housing



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: The Law

3. **Right to dispute resolution:** If problems arise between the school and parents or between school systems, the parent may initiate a grievance at the local school. The child shall remain in school and receive transportation throughout the dispute.



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

Enrollment and Transportation

- **Enrollment with sensitivity:** Make available to staff information about the educational rights of homeless children and youth and barriers homeless children may face.
- **Identifying the homeless:** Fear of being stigmatized results in a reluctance by many homeless families to be identified. How can the “hidden homeless” be identified?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

Enrollment and Transportation

- **Homeless children have the same rights to transportation as other children in their district:**
 - School systems must provide homeless children and youth with transportation services comparable to the services provided to non-homeless children
 - Additional transportation may be provided as long as the child or youth attends the school of origin and remains homeless, or until the end of the academic year if permanent housing is obtained





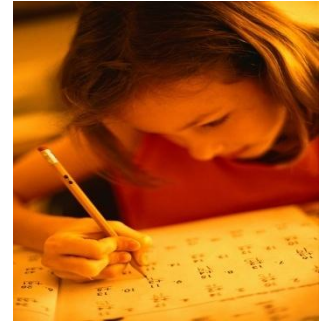
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

Enrollment and Transportation Cont.

- If a child or youth begins living in another school district, or if the child's school of origin is in another school district, then transportation services shall be provided to the extent feasible
- In cases where the homeless student(s) is provided shelter in a local jurisdiction other than the one in which the school of origin is located, the two local school systems shall confer to determine feasibility of transportation.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

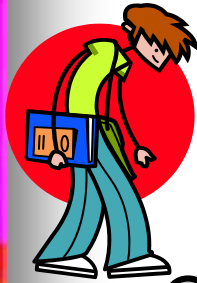
In-School Issues



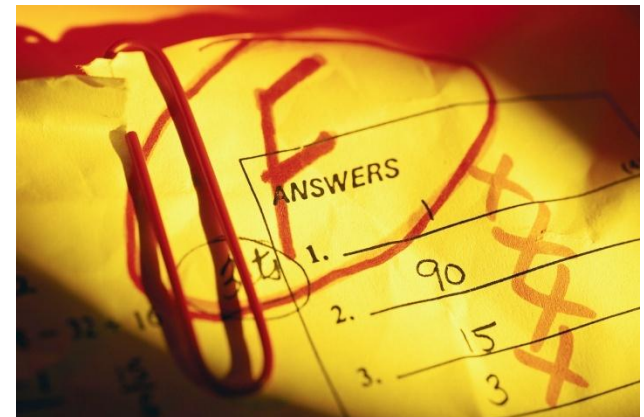
- Homeless families lack financial resources for children to participate in before- and after- school activities
- It is important to keep a homeless child's situation confidential
- Homelessness can affect classroom behavior and academic progress.



How do teachers recognize these problems and how can they be addressed?



- Children or youth come to school unbathed or wearing the same clothes day after day
- Children or youth miss a lot of class due to the need to provide childcare to younger siblings
- Homework is not done due to stress of being homeless
- Poor health





Did you know...

There is a program offered in your school that provides all the services described in this presentation, free of charge, to homeless children and youth. So, if you know a child that is homeless do not hesitate to contact either your school Principal, counselor, or teacher.



State of Montana Coordinator for
Homeless Education
Mr. Terry Teichrow
State Contact, Homeless Program
Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
Phone: (406) 444-2036
Fax: (406) 444-3924
Email: tteichrow@mt.gov
Website:

http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/index.html?gpm=1_5



The End