

# Who is Homeless?

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act defines the term “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including;

1. Children and youths who are **sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing**, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or abandoned in hospitals;
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in clauses (1) through (3).

Source: National Center for Homeless Education

# Educational Rights

Under the McKinney-Vento Act and per PUSD Board Policy 6173, homeless children and youth have the right to:

- Receive a free and appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if there are documents missing that are normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while PUSD’s school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in your local PUSD school; or continue attending the school of origin (the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), according to each student’s best interest.
  - \*If the PUSD believes that the school selected is not in the student’s best interest, PUSD must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its position and inform the parent, guardian, or youth of the right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation\*\* to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student’s needs.

\*\*Transportation assistance is available to students who reside 2 or more miles away from their school of origin. Transportation assistance is also available up to \$60 per month/per family/per school site.

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# McKinney-Vento

A Federal Law protecting the access to a public education when a student experiences changes to their living situation that results in homelessness.

Pleasanton Unified School District





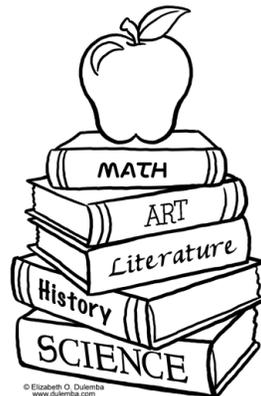
## What support is available in the Tri Valley?

PUSD is fortunate to have great collaborative relationships with various providers in our Tri-Valley. Many of these relationships result in supportive services offered to our school community. In addition to the legally mandated services offered to MKV students and their families, at any time during the length of your MKV classification you can count on the following referrals and support from the PUSD MKV Liaison.

### Referrals

Under your direction, PUSD's MKV's Liaison is available to provide you with referrals to relevant community resources as well as one on one in-person support in navigating these systems to address your current family's needs. Referrals include, but are not limited to:

- County agencies/programs [Social Services, Women's Infant and Children (WIC), Housing, Health Clinics]
- Counseling support for students/families
- City Serve of the Tri Valley assistance
- Basic Needs services (Food Pantry Listings, Clothes Closets, etc.)



## What does PUSD provide?

Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) recognizes students and their families meeting the McKinney-Vento (MKV) classification represent a variety of situations and as such they may not always have prior knowledge about their rights and protections under the MKV Act.

The Student Services Department strives to inform our PUSD students, families, staff and community at large about the various protections and benefits afforded to MKV students.

If you have a student meeting the MKV classification criteria, you can expect the following legally required services and support from PUSD:

- School supplies such as backpack, notebooks, writing utensils, paper, and other tools required for classes.
- Free breakfast and lunch meals.
- Transportation\*\* to and from school, when requested by the parent or unaccompanied youth. Options include bus or BART tickets, taxi service or mileage reimbursement incurred during private travel. PUSD MKV Liaison will consider the student's best interest when identifying the best method of transportation available to him/her.

## How can I access McKinney-Vento services in PUSD?

Students seeking protections and services under McKinney-Vento must complete a McKinney-Vento Eligibility Questionnaire form. This form is available and required during the enrollment process. Like an emergency card, the McKinney-Vento Eligibility Questionnaire must be updated on a yearly basis to ensure the student is still McKinney-Vento eligible. Once the form is complete, school site staff will forward it to the MKV Liaison in the Student Services Department.

### Collaboration and Communication

Upon receipt of the McKinney-Vento Eligibility Questionnaire form, the MKV Liaison will review and determine the student's eligibility under McKinney-Vento. The MKV Liaison will contact the parent directly to discuss the student's needs and assess for relevant community resources to share with the parent/guardian.

Through collaboration and communication, the MKV Liaison and parent work closely to address the needs of the family by utilizing and maximizing the various resources available to us in Pleasanton.

## Contact Us

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