

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education in Calvert County Public Schools

Department of Student Services

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What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is authorized under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This federal law gives important education rights to homeless children and youth. Homeless children must be given equal access to the same free, appropriate public education that is provided to other children.

Definition of Homelessness

The federal government's legal definition of homelessness based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is anyone who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing due to economic hardship (doubled up)
- Living in motels, hotels, inadequate trailer parks, or camp ground
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in a public place not designated for sleeping, such as in a car, park, abandoned building, bus station, or substandard housing
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Unaccompanied youth
- Migrant children who qualify under any of the above

Rights of Homeless Students

The McKinney-Vento Act states that homeless students have the right to:

- Continue attending at their school of origin, if that is in the student's best interest
- Immediate enrollment in the local school where the family is temporarily residing
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of required school records or documents
- Enroll and attend classes even while the school and parent seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment
- Receive required transportation to his/her school of origin, if that is in the student's best interest
- Have access to educational services for which they qualify, including special education, gifted education, tutoring, free-and-reduced lunch program, and before and after school activities
- Attend preschool programs administered by CCPS
- Receive comparable Title I services

When transferring to a new school, children often lose 4-6 months of academic progress. Homeless students who are highly mobile frequently fall so far behind in their studies, it may take years for them to catch up. Therefore, it is generally considered to be in the best interest of a homeless child or youth to remain in the school of origin.

Calvert County Public Schools' Commitment

The McKinney-Vento Act addresses the problems that homeless children and youth face enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Calvert County Public Schools is committed to:

- Assisting with the immediate enrollment of homeless students in the school that is in the best interest of the student
- Ensuring equal access to all education and activity programs as provided to other students
- Providing prompt and sensitive service to parents and students in need of assistance
- Providing parents and students with information to be successful in school
- Providing resources and referrals
- Assisting parents in obtaining records required for educational purposes
- Reducing barriers to promote success in the classroom
- Building community relationships

Collaborating Agencies

[National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth](#) (NAEHCY)

[The National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE](#) (NCHE) [Email](#), 800-308-2145

[National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty](#) (NLCHP), 202-638-2535

[US Department of Education Homeless Education Program](#), 202-260-4412

[Maryland State Department of Education](#) (MSDE), 410-767-0293

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the McKinney-Vento Law define “school of origin”?

School of origin includes:

1. The school the child attended during his/her last permanent residence, or
2. The school in which the child was last enrolled

Can McKinney-Vento Students attend any school of their choice?

No, McKinney-Vento students only have two options for school selection:

1. School of Origin (as defined above)
2. School of Residency—the school assigned to the attendance area where the student is currently staying.

Any student may request a transfer to another school; however, enrollment is not guaranteed, and the student is required to provide their own transportation. McKinney-Vento does not cover transportation for transfer students.

What if a student needs transportation to the school of origin?

Transportation will be provided, at the request of the parent or guardian, to and/or from the school of origin, when determined to be in the best interest of the student.

Who is considered an unaccompanied youth?

Unaccompanied youth are those who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Homeless unaccompanied youth must be enrolled immediately, even without a parent or guardian.

What if a homeless family secures permanent housing during the school year?

In order to reduce disruptions in their education, McKinney-Vento students are allowed to remain enrolled in their designated school for the entire school year, even if permanent housing is obtained outside of the school zone, as long as it is in the best interest of the child.

What if a dispute arises over a homeless student’s rights?

The student must be immediately enrolled in school, pending resolution of the dispute. An appeal, in writing, should be filed with the Director of Student Services within fifteen school days. The Director of Student Services will issue a written decision within five school days. This decision may be appealed to Superintendent of Schools, and, if necessary, to the Board of Education of Calvert County or Maryland.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Calvert County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, familial status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or genetic information or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Student Services
Director of Human Resources
443-550-8000

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System at: <https://ocracas.ed.gov> or call 1-800-421-3481.

Anti-sexual, Anti-racial and Anti-disability Harassment Statement

Discrimination can manifest itself in behaviors such as bullying, harassment, or intimidation of individuals.

Calvert County Public Schools does not tolerate any form of harassment including, but not limited to, sexual, racial, or disability. Any individual (student, employee, or community member) who believes that he or she has been subjected to any form of harassment is encouraged to report the allegation of harassment. Students, parents and community members may report allegations of harassment to:

Mr. James Kurtz
Director of Student Services
Calvert County Public Schools
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Employees may report allegations of harassment to:

Mr. Zachary Seawell
Director of Human Resources
Calvert County Public Schools
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Calvert County Public Schools is committed to conducting a prompt investigation for any allegation of harassment. If harassment has occurred, the individual will be disciplined promptly. Disciplinary actions for students found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or expulsion. Disciplinary actions for employees found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or termination.

Calvert County Public Schools encourages all students, parents, employees, and community members to work together to prevent any form of harassment.

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