

## MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

### *Who is considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act?*

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. The term includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Awaiting foster-care placement
- Living in a primary night-time residence not used as a regular sleeping accommodation Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and/or
- Migratory children living in any of the circumstances described above

Homeless students are eligible to receive assistance with the following:

- Free school breakfast and lunch
- School supplies
- Transportation
- After school programs
- Tutoring programs
- School fees
- Opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities
- Referrals to community resources for help with basic needs

### Educational Rights

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children (age 21 and younger) in homeless situations have the right to:

- Go to school no matter where they live or how long they have lived there
- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records
- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services

*For more information, or if you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact:*

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