
Why It Is Important to Connect with a School

- Education is a key to your personal success.
- School provides a link to adults that care about you and can provide you with the necessary help and resources.
- School helps you keep connected with social activities and friends of your own age.



Who Can Help Me Enroll in School?

- District Homeless Service Coordinator
 - School Site Registrar
 - School Social Worker
 - School Counselor
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Westminster Public Schools McKinney-Vento Educational Program

Advocacy and Assistance for Youth & Families Experiencing Homelessness

How Schools Can Help When You Are Alone

The Educational Rights of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



Westminster Public Schools
McKinney-Vento Educational Program

Tel: 720 542-5380 (Spanish)

Tel: 720 542-5379 (English)

Homeless Unaccompanied Youth

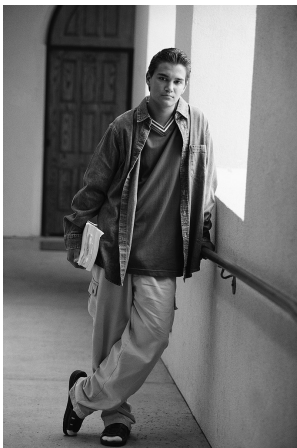
Are you homeless?

The term “homeless children and youth” means when you lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes if you stay at the following public places or in a similar situation due to lack of another place to stay: shelters, your car, campgrounds, parks, motels or hotels, a train or bus station, or trailers that are unsafe. This can also include when you need to temporarily stay with a friend or a relative because you lack a place to stay.

Are you a teen on your own?

If you are in a homeless situation (as described above) who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, you are an “unaccompanied youth” and, under law, are entitled to certain educational rights. This includes if you have:

- run away from home.
- been thrown out of your home.
- been left on your own by a parent or guardian.



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act



Homeless children and unaccompanied youth have protected rights under a federal law called the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act**.

This law gives you the right to:

- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice - either the school you attended before you became homeless (your “school of origin”) or the school near where you are currently staying.
- Receive transportation to the school you attended before you became homeless, or the last school you attended, if this is feasible.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school records or any other documents required for enrollment. This can include birth certificates, immunizations and records.

Other Important Points

- You are eligible for free lunch services at school.
- You are also eligible for school-related fee waivers and access to medical services.
- You have the right to equal access to programs and services for gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, and English language learner services.
- You have the right to participate in sports have fees discounted or waived. Talk to your school social worker, other school staff, or district homeless liaison about available assistance.
- You have the right to disagree with the decision(s) of the school or school district about enrollment or transportation and to have that dispute resolved by someone impartial. The school is required to enroll you and allow you to attend school while the dispute is being worked out.

