



STEWART B. MCKINNEY VENTO EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH



helping
children
to succeed

The McKinney Vento Act

- Main Purpose of the McKinney Vento Act is to ensure the following for the homeless child:
 - School Access
 - Educational Stability
 - Support for Academic Success
 - Focus on Best Interest of Children
 - Strong Role of Local Schools in Helping Homeless Children and Youth

McKinney Vento Act—Know The Facts!

START HERE

McKinney Vento is an act that protects school-age homeless children

Who qualifies: children that are living in cars, shelters, or are doubled up with another family

Homeless children have the right to continue going to the school they were enrolled in before becoming homeless for the rest of the school year

If a homeless family decides they want their children to continue at that school for the rest of the school year, that school must pay for and provide transportation for them

If you move to another school district and want to remain at your original school, the two districts must arrange transportation, if practical (in terms of distance), at no cost to you

Once you inform the school that you are homeless, the school has 48 hours to arrange transportation plans

If you would rather send your child to a new local school, the school has to enroll the child immediately without records

Schools educating homeless children are also required to pay for those students to attend schools functions that are a part of the educational program (i.e. educational field trips).

Schools educating homeless children must help them get materials they need for educational programming (i.e. school uniforms, school supplies)

Homeless children have the right to a quicker than usual evaluation process for services such as disability eligibility, gifted programs, and ELL programs (the standard evaluation time is 60 days)

DETERMINATION OF HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS IS DEFINED AS THE LACK OF A FIXED, REGULAR AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE. Below are some situations of homelessness:

- Families living in transitional housing are considered homeless.
- Families whose sleeping accommodations are not designed for or ordinarily used by human beings are considered homeless. Some examples of public or private places not designed for sleeping accommodations include parks, bus and train stations, cars and abandoned buildings.
- Families living in supervised, publicly or privately, operated shelters designed to provide temporary living accommodations are considered homeless. Some examples of these shelters include domestic violence shelter, congregate shelters and runaway shelters.
- A child or youth who is sick or abandoned and who is residing in a hospital and would otherwise be released is considered homeless.
- A school-age unwed mother or expectant mother who is residing in a home for adolescent mothers is considered homeless.
- Children of families living in motels are not always homeless; their homeless status should be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Families living in campgrounds or trailer parks are not always homeless; their homeless status should be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Migrant children who become homeless are eligible for all the services offered in this legislation. They are also eligible to receive services under the provisions of the Title I, Part C, Migrant Education Program. These additional services are provided through Regional Migrant Education Projects.
- Families temporarily living children of families living with friends or relatives are not always homeless; their homeless status should be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Emancipated minors, runaways, abandoned or throwaway children, or youth and adult students eligible for educational services should be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine homelessness.
- Eligibility for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or other similar programs such as Emergency Aid (EA) or Temporary Rental Assistance (TRA) is not a pre-requisite for a determination of homelessness. Neither is it always an indicator that a recipient is necessarily homeless.
- The circumstances under which a family is evicted from their home have no bearing on the homeless status of the child(ren).
- Disputes regarding the determination of a child's homelessness shall be referred to the County Executive Superintendent of Schools for decision within 48 hours. The County Executive Superintendent's determination stands unless and until it is reversed on appeal.