

The McKinney-Vento Act

On July 22, 1987, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act became public law. This was the first comprehensive federal law that addressed homelessness in America. On December 10, 2015, the President signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Under the previous version of ESEA (the No Child Left Behind Act), the education of homeless children and youth was included in Title X, Part C. Under ESSA, homeless education is included in Title IX, Part A. Please check this webpage frequently for updates as the field readies itself to implement the new law. These changes became effective October 1, 2016.

Provisions of the Act:

- Homeless children have the right to attend either their original school or the school in the area in which they currently reside for the duration of their homelessness, or until the end of the school year if the family finds permanent housing.
- Schools are to immediately enroll homeless children and unaccompanied youth, even if they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, and any other required documentation.
- In the case where the educating district is different than the district where the student is temporarily residing, both school districts are responsible for the facilitation of transportation in the best interest of the student.
- Immediately upon enrollment, homeless students are entitled to receive a daily, free school lunch.

Administration of the Program:

The Pennsylvania's Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness initiative is administered by the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV in collaboration with the School District of the City of Erie, the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5, & Riverview Intermediate Unit 6.



For Assistance or Additional Information

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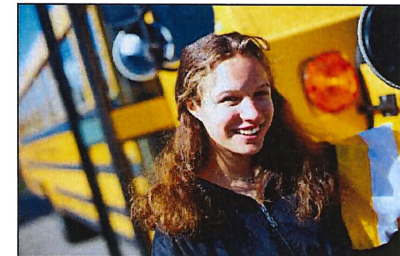
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Pennsylvania's Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness

REGION #5

Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie,
Forest, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer,
Venango and Warren



Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV

A Regional Site of Pennsylvania's
Education for Children & Youth
Experiencing Homelessness

Region 5 Pennsylvania's Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The Pennsylvania's Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness initiative ensures homeless children and youth a free and appropriate public education on an equal basis with all other children of Pennsylvania. Program objectives and activities are intended to remove barriers to enrollment and educational success, and to ensure that education is as uninterrupted as possible while students are homeless.

In the fall of 2005, Pennsylvania Department of Education made the decision to restructure Pennsylvania's Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness into 8 regions.

Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV is the administrative agent for Region 5, which includes Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties.



Homeless children face a variety of obstacles that impair their ability to attend school, including transportation.



Definitions of Homelessness

A child is considered homeless if he or she is living with or without a parent:

- In a homeless or domestic violence shelter or transitional housing
- In a public or private place not designated as regular sleeping accommodation, such as a vehicle, park, hotel or campground
- With relatives or friends due to lack of housing ("doubled up")
- "Unaccompanied homeless youth" including any child who is "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian." This includes youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or guardians, or separated from their parents for any other reason.
- Substandard housing
- In any of the situations listed above as a child of a migrant family
- Homeless children reside in situations that are not fixed, regular or adequate.

Barriers Facing Homeless Children

Homeless children face a variety of legal, social and emotional barriers that may interrupt their education. They include:

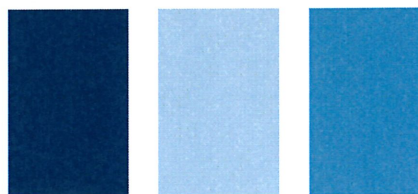
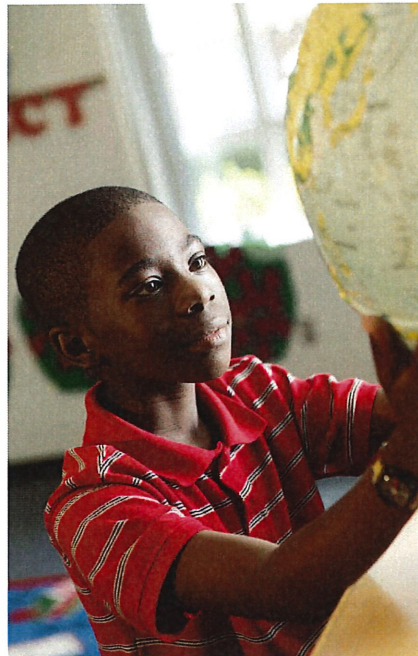
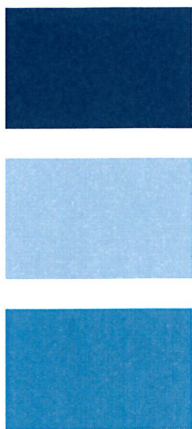
- Lack of school supplies and clothing
 - Residency and guardianship requirements
 - Lapses in program continuity
 - Delays in educational evaluations
 - Lack of transportation to school
 - Missing academic and health records
 - Lack of awareness regarding the extent and effects of homelessness
 - Inadequate parental resources
 - Social stigma attached to homelessness
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How Homeless Children's Initiative Coordinators Can Help

- Assisting with school enrollment and placement
- Providing referrals for clothing, food, shelter, rent, medical services, preschool, housing, advocacy, counseling, etc.
- Coordinating transportation to and from school
- Implementing tutoring and enrichment services in shelters and other settings
- Coordinating support services
- Distributing literature regarding homeless children
- Providing training and in-service related to the McKinney-Vento Act
- Increasing public awareness of homelessness
- Assisting with obtaining school clothing, shoes and supplies for homeless students

How School Personnel Can Help

- School administrators can help by knowing the rights of the homeless and encouraging sensitivity
 - Identified Homeless Liaisons can identify and track homeless students, train district staff on Federal and State policies, and contact HCI staff with questions and requests for technical assistance
 - Principals can create a welcoming environment for homeless families
 - School secretaries can discreetly assist parents with forms and paperwork
 - Counselors can refer for needed services
 - School nurses can expedite immunization and health record transfers
 - Transportation staff can arrange for children to attend their school of origin
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Life is uncertain, but your child's education doesn't have to be.

Even if you lack a permanent residence, your children can receive help to stay in their home school district.

**PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION
FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUTH EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM**

**Every child deserves
school stability.**

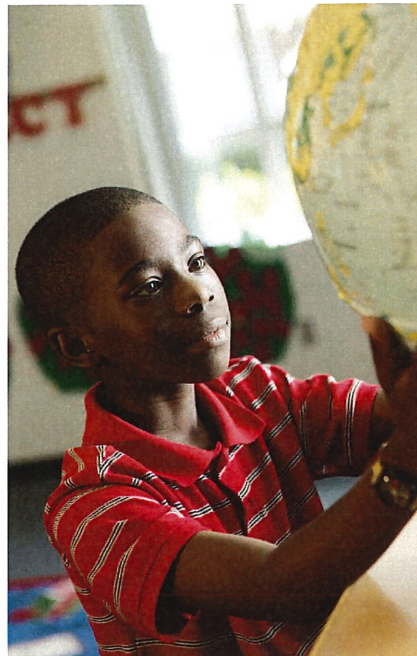
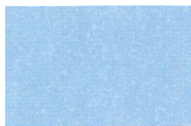
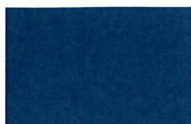
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act can help provide school stability for your child if you do not have a permanent home and are:

- Staying with friends or family because you lost housing.
- Living in a shelter, including transitional programs.
- Staying in motels because you cannot get your own home.
- Living on the streets, in a car, van, tent or other nonpermanent structure.

Dr. Brian Slamecka
Asst. Superintendent
724-214-3106



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La vida puede ser incierta, pero la educación de sus hijos no lo tiene que ser.

Aun si usted no tiene un hogar permanente, sus hijos pueden recibir ayuda para permanecer en su distrito escolar.

**PROGRAMA EDUCATIVO PARA
NIÑOS Y ADOLECENTES
DE FAMILIAS DEAMBULANTES
DEL ESTADO DE PA**

**Todo niño se merece una
educación estable.**

El McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act le puede ayudar a conseguir estabilidad escolar para sus hijos si usted no tiene hogar fijo y esta:

- Quedándose con algún familiar debido a la perdida su casa.
- Esta viviendo en un refugio temporero.
- Está residiendo en moteles por que no puede tener su propia casa.
- Esta viviendo en las calles, en su automóvil, tienda de campaña u otra estructura no permanente.

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Information for School-Age Youth

You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

If you live in any of the following situations:

- A shelter.
- A motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation.
- A car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station.
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

As an eligible student you have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending your school of origin (the school you attended when permanently housed or the school in which you were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.

If the school district believes that the school selected is not in your best interest, the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your needs as a student.



If you believe you may be eligible, contact one of the individuals below to find out what services and supports may be available.



Local Contact

Dr. Brian Slamecka
Asst. Superintendent
724-214-3106

State Coordinator
Sheldon Winnick
(717) 783-6466



Información para Jóvenes en Edad Escolar

Usted podría cumplir con los requisitos para obtener ciertos derechos y protecciones bajo la Ley federal de McKinney-Vento.

Si usted vive en alguna de las siguientes situaciones:

- Un refugio.
- Un motel o campamento debido a la falta de un alojamiento alternativo adecuado.
- Un automóvil, un parque, un edificio abandonado la estación de autobús o tren.
- Decidió compartir con otras personas debido a la pérdida de vivienda o dificultades económicas.

Como estudiante elegible, tiene el derecho a:

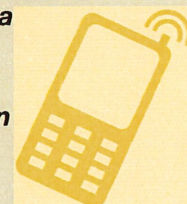
- Recibir una educación pública gratuita y apropiada.
- Inscribirse en la escuela inmediatamente, incluso si carece de documentos normalmente requeridos para la inscripción.
- Inscribirse en la escuela y asistir a clases mientras la escuela se encarga de reunir todos los documentos necesarios.
- Inscribirse en la escuela local o continuar asistiendo a su escuela de origen (la escuela a la que asistió cuando tenía hogar permanente o la escuela donde se inscribió por última vez), en caso de que esa sea su preferencia y sea factible.

Si el distrito escolar considera que la escuela seleccionada no es de su mejor interés, el distrito deberá darle una explicación por escrito acerca de su posición y le informará sobre su derecho a apelar la decisión.

- Recibir servicios de transporte hacia y desde la escuela de origen, si así lo solicitaran.
- Recibir servicios educativos comparables a los proporcionados a otros estudiantes, de acuerdo a sus necesidades como estudiante.



Si usted cree que tal vez elegible, póngase en contacto con uno de los individuos detallados aquí abajo para saber qué servicios y apoyos pueden estar disponibles.



Contacto local

Dr. Brian Slamecka
Asst. Superintendent
724-214-3106

Sheldon Winnick
Coordinador Estatal
(717) 783-6466

Existe el Programa de la Educación para Niños y Jóvenes Sin Hogar que se encarga de ayudar a los estudiantes que están atravesando por la experiencia de falta de vivienda, ofreciendo una amplia variedad de servicios para ayudarlos durante este tiempo de cambio y estrés.



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