HELPFUL CONTACTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

For help with a special education matter, contact the Office of Special Education Quality Assurance or a PTI Center in your area.

Special Education Quality Assurance Regional Offices

- Central Regional Office (315) 428-4556
- Eastern Regional Office (518) 486-6366
- Hudson Valley Regional Office (518) 473-1185
- New York City Regional Office (718) 722-4544
- Western Regional Office (585) 344-2002
- Long Island Regional Office (631) 952-3352

Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI)

To find your Parent Training and Information Center visit: www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm or www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Early Childhood Direction Centers provide information about services for children, ages birth through five, who have disabilities. To contact the Center in your area, call (518) 486-7462

RUNAWAY OR HOMELESS YOUTH

For information, referrals, and crisis intervention, contact the National Runaway Switchboard at (800) RUNAWAY (786-2929)

HOUSING

For information about eviction prevention and public housing, contact the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at (518) 473-1090

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

- (800) 942-6906
- (800) 621-HOPE (4673) (*New York City residents*)

For help, ask your McKinney-Vento Liaison

Mrs. Jessica Emmerling,
Director of Special Education
(716) 891-6429
JEmmerling@cheektowagasloan.org

If blank, contact NYS-TEACHS for liaison information at 800-388-2014 or visit www.nysteachs.org/liaison

New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS)

Call Toll-free:
(800) 388-2014
Email: info@nysteachs.org
Web: www.nysteachs.org

New York State Coordinator for Homeless Education

Melanie Faby
Email: melanie.faby@nysed.gov
Web: www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/homeless

IS YOUR HOUSING UNCERTAIN?

DO YOU LIVE AT A TEMPORARY ADDRESS?

YOU HAVE IMPORTANT SCHOOL RIGHTS!

NYSTEACHS
NEW YORK STATE TECHNICAL AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

ARE YOU LIVING...

- With relatives, friends, or others because you lost your housing, or because of economic hardship?
- In a shelter?
- In a motel or hotel because you have nowhere else to go?
- In inadequate housing?

You may be protected under the McKinney-Vento Act!

Children and youth in temporary housing have the right to:

- stay in the same school, including pre-k, and get free transportation even if it is across district lines;
- immediately enroll in school without records (school records, medical records, vaccination records, proof of residency);
- get special education services immediately if the student has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP);
- participate fully in school activities, including before- or after-school activities;
- get support services and help with things like school supplies through Title I;
- get free school meals without filling out an application;
- get help enrolling in pre-k, Head Start, other preschool programs, and Early Intervention; and
- get help preparing and applying for college.

F A Q

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get help?

Every school district must have a McKinney-Vento liaison to help students in temporary housing. Contact information for the liaison can be found on www.nysteachs.org/liaison.

Can a school require a student in temporary housing to show proof of residence to register for school?

No, if a student says they are homeless or in temporary housing, they must be enrolled immediately in school even if they don't have the papers normally needed, such as proof of residence, immunization records, a birth certificate, guardianship records, or school records.

Can a student who is living in temporary housing stay in the same school if they move out of the school district?

Yes, the student has the right to stay in the same school they went to when they were permanently housed.

Can a student enroll themselves in school?

Yes, if the youth is living in temporary housing and not with their parents or legal guardians (known as unaccompanied youth) they can enroll themselves in school.

What if a school doesn't enroll a student or provide busing because the district doesn't believe the student is homeless?

The school must immediately enroll the student and refer them to the district's McKinney-Vento liaison for help with the appeal process. Students have the right to appeal a school's decision, go to school, and get transportation until the appeal is decided.

If a student moves into permanent housing, can they stay in the same school?

Yes. A student can stay in the same school for the entire time they are in temporary housing and through the end of the school year in which they move into permanent housing.