



MCKINNEY-VENTO

WHAT IS MCKINNEY VENTO AND WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- ❖ McKinney Vento is a law to protect homeless children and youth. It has a broader definition of homelessness than is frequently thought of by many.
- ❖ School staff have an obligation to identify and serve students experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ The following slides will provide guidance to help you meet the needs of homeless children and youth.

HOMELESS DEFINITION

Children and youth who lack a **FIXED, REGULAR** and **ADEQUATE** nighttime residence and:

- ❖ share the homes of others, due to loss of their own homes
- ❖ are living in motels/hotels or in shelters
- ❖ have a primary nighttime residence that is not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- ❖ living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- ❖ parents have sent their children to live with others because they are too poor to provide a regular and adequate home
- ❖ have a parent who is urgently hospitalized for illness or surgery and the child move temporarily with a relative

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Fixed

- ❖ A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- ❖ **EXAMPLE:** Student is living at home, with his/her parent/guardian where the student's basic needs are met, and the home is a place they return to daily and the lease/mortgage is in the parent/guardian name.

Regular

- ❖ A regular residence is one which is used on a regular (i.e. occurring over and over again at the same time or in the same way; occurring every day, week, month, etc.) basis.

Adequate

- ❖ An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.
- ❖ Adequate shelter means...
 - adequate privacy
 - adequate space
 - adequate lighting and ventilation
 - adequate basic infrastructure

DOUBLED UP

- ❖ When a family loses their steady living arrangement, they may move in with a friend, or with a family member.
 - ❖ It is important to understand that not all situations where families are living with a friend or family member are homeless. It goes back to the Homeless definition: share the homes of others, **due to loss of their own homes.**
 - ❖ If families are living together out of convenience/choice (e.g. share bills, childcare, etc.), they are not considered homeless
- ❖ Considered homeless because they can be asked to leave at anytime (not fixed).
- ❖ Additionally, often times when doubled up, the space is not adequate.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ❖ District must ask the difficult questions to determine if the child is homeless, **without asking “Are you homeless?”**
 - *Are you sharing the housing of other persons due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason?*
 - *Are you currently residing at a motel, hotel?*
 - *Are you currently residing in an emergency or transitional shelter?*
 - *Is your primary nighttime residence a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings?*
 - *Are you currently living in a car, park, public space, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train station or similar setting?*
- ❖ Students displaced by a natural disaster are eligible
- ❖ If a student continues to meet the definition criteria, there is not a limit on how long a child is considered homeless, but a homeless form must be completed annually.

NOTE: If a student is deemed homeless, they are considered homeless the remainder of the year, even if permanent housing is secured.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH DEFINITION

- ❖ A homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- ❖ Runaways or students who have left home due to family turmoil
- ❖ Students who are couch surfing
- ❖ Students living in shelters, or on the streets

ENROLLMENT

- ❖ The district staff will gather and analyze information from the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and make a determination of eligibility.
- ❖ The Welcome Center and/or school staff must contact the school the student last attended immediately to obtain relevant academic and other records.
- ❖ Homeless students can be enrolled without guardianship and schools can not request a guardian be present for enrollment of students who are deemed homeless.
- ❖ Schools must enroll children and youth experiencing homelessness immediately, and ensure they receive educational and related services for which they are eligible, even if they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, or have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness
 - ❖ This means that failure to produce documents such as proof of residency, birth certificates, transcripts, immunizations, etc. cannot be used as a reason to keep students out of school.

SCHOOL OF ORIGIN

- ❖ School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the student was last enrolled.
- ❖ Districts should try to maintain students in their school of origin to promote school stability and greater educational outcomes overall, unless it is not in the student's best interest.
- ❖ Students can remain in their school of origin for one school year (if they become homeless during the summer or at the beginning of a school year) or for the remainder of the school year (if they become homeless during the school year) even after permanent housing is acquired. If the student remains homeless, he/she may stay in the school of origin until matriculation to the next grade span (e.g. elementary to middle school or middle school to high school).
- ❖ When the school of origin does not appear to be in the best interest of the student, the principal, along with the district Homeless Coordinator, Mindie Friederich, will use the School Selection Checklist to determine the school of best interest.

TRANSPORTATION

- ❖ The District must either transport or reimburse parents for transportation when it is determined a homeless student should stay in their school of origin, even if it crosses district lines.
- ❖ If transportation is needed, contact the district's Homeless Coordinator. Only the district Homeless Coordinator is authorized to arrange transportation (i.e. reimbursement, busing across school boundaries or cab).
- ❖ Homeless students are eligible for transportation assistance to their school of origin until housing is secured, provided the student lives outside the parent transport zone (more than one mile from school).

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- ❖ Automatic qualification for free school lunches
- ❖ Waivers of fees for SAT and ACT testing and college applications
- ❖ Possible assistance for expenses related to extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Possible assistance with clothing and hygiene expenses

JC SCHOOLS HOMELESS PROCEDURES

- ❖ If a staff member feels that a student could be experiencing homelessness, speak with the principal or counselor at your school.
 - Principals and counselors are trained to help screen for and identify students who meet the homeless criteria.
- ❖ Principals/counselors will complete a homeless form and send to the district's homeless coordinator, Mindie Friederich.
- ❖ Mindie Friederich will approve/deny the homeless form
 - Arrange transportation, if appropriate
 - Notify Food Service
 - Evaluate needs
- ❖ If the situation is not considered homeless, Mindie Friederich will contact the individual submitting the form to explain why.

DISPUTE AND REGULATION

- ❖ If a family disagrees with a McKinney Vento eligibility decision, please have them contact the district's homeless coordinator, Mindie Friederich

QUESTIONS?

Contact Mindie Friederich

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