



McKinney-Vento Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Act addresses educational barriers and challenges created by homelessness by guaranteeing students experiencing homelessness the right to enroll in and attend school, and providing supports needed for school success. The law places the responsibility for ensuring the rights of homeless students on states and school districts.

Every state has a State Coordinator for Homeless Education, who oversees the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act in school districts throughout the state. Vermont's Coordinator can be reached at: **(802)479-3112.**

Every public school district also has a local homeless education liaison to help identify, enroll, and support the education of students experiencing homelessness.

Lamoille North Supervisory Union

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McKinney-Vento Services

Assisting Students and Families in Transition

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WAYS WE CAN HELP

- Items of clothing, particularly if necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement;
- Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes;
- Tutoring;
- Personal school supplies;
- Obtaining birth certificates, and immunizations necessary to enroll in school;
- Food;
- Connections to medical, dental, and counseling services;
- Access to eyeglasses and hearing aids

WHO ARE HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

Homeless children and youth are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN TRANSITION

- Homeless families do not need to provide a permanent address in order to enroll children in school, nor do youth on their own need to provide this information before enrolling. Schools cannot require proof of residency if it prevents or delays school enrollment.
- A Homeless child or youth may remain in the school s/he attended before becoming homeless (a.k.a. school of origin) for the duration of homelessness or until the end of the school year if s/he becomes permanently housed as long as it is in the child's best interest.
- The lack of school records, immunization records or birth certificate cannot prevent a homeless student from enrolling in school.
- Homeless children have the same rights to school programs and services as all children - including school meals, preschool programs, before- and after-school programs, special education, transportation, and career and technology programs.



