



McKinney Vento 101

Students Experiencing Homelessness

**The McKinney Vento
Homeless
Assistance Act,
Title X, Part C
defines
homelessness as
“individuals who
lack a fixed, regular
and adequate
nighttime residence.
This includes
children and youth
who are:**



Sharing the Housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as **doubled up**)



Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations



Living in **emergency** (typically 60-90 days in length) or **transitional** (can be up to 2 years in length) shelters



Abandoned in hospitals



Using a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings



Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings



Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An Unaccompanied Homeless Youth is any child or youth **who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless** and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This could be a student of any age.



A March 2019 report by the Congressional Research Service identified the following as the primary risk factors for youth homelessness:

Family conflict and family dynamics	Youth's Sexual Orientation	Youth's Sexual Activity	School Problems	Pregnancy	Substance Abuse
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Causes of Homelessness

Poverty

Domestic Violence

Eviction/Foreclosure

Health Issues

Fires

Natural Disasters

Job Loss/Loss of
Income

Incarceration of a
parent or family
member

Divorce/Separation

Lack of Affordable
Housing

Mental Illness

Drug and Alcohol
Abuse

Homeless Liaison

All public school districts and public charter schools must designate a homeless liaison who has the capacity (time, knowledge and resources) to fulfill the position.

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Common Signs of Homelessness

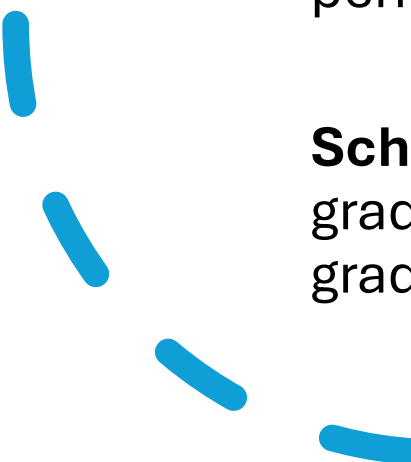
- Attendance at many schools
- Missing records needed to enroll
- Gaps in skill development
- Missing immunization and medical records
- Health issues including respiratory problems and skin rashes
- Chronic hunger and fatigue
- Erratic attendance and tardiness
- Inability to contact parents
- Poor personal hygiene
- Developmental delays
- Anxiety, especially late in the school day
- Extreme shyness and poor self esteem
- Statements such as:
 - “We’ve been moving around a lot.”
 - “We’re going through a bad time right now.”
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Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness



Students experiencing homelessness have the right to remain in their school of origin throughout the duration of their homeless episode. Additionally, they have the right to remain in the school of origin through the end of the year in which they find permanent housing.

School of origin is defined as the school attended when the student was permanently housed or the last school attended, including preschool.



School of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder school patterns, when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.



Students experiencing homelessness have the **right to transportation to their school of origin**. LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school/preschool of origin throughout the duration of the homeless episode, including until the end of the school year when the student obtains permanent housing, at the parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for an unaccompanied youth).



Transportation



When remaining in the school of origin is not in the student's best interest or not what the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth requests, McKinney-Vento students are entitled to immediate enrollment in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend; even if:

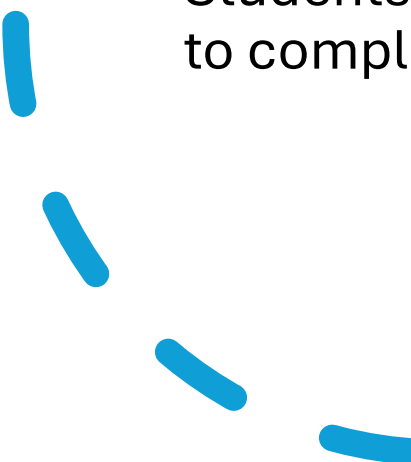
- Students do not have the required documents, such as school records, **records of immunization and other required health records**, proof of residency, guardianship, or other documents; or
 - Students have missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
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Immediate Enrollment



Students identified as homeless under McKinney Vento are automatically eligible for free school meals, even if otherwise they would not be eligible.

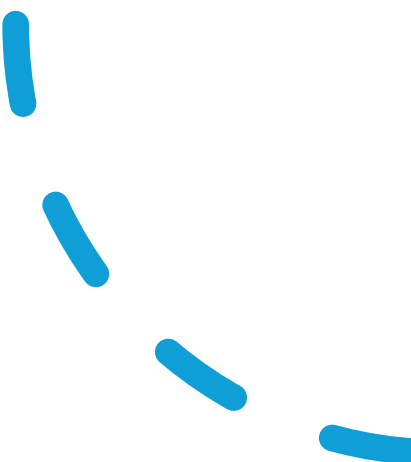
- Students remain eligible through the end of the school year in which they find permanent housing.
- Students can be directly certified by the homeless liaison, so families do not have to complete the application for free meals.



Free School Meals



LEAs must have procedures to ensure McKinney-Vento students receive appropriate full or partial credit, for coursework completed such as: consulting with prior school about partial coursework completed; evaluating students' mastery of partially completed courses; offering credit recovery options.



Credit Accrual



McKinney-Vento students attending any school in the LEA are automatically eligible for Title 1A services due to their homeless identification, even if they were not eligible prior to the homeless determination.

LEA Title 1 plans must:

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- Be coordinated with the district's McKinney-Vento program.
 - Describe what services are provided to support homeless students' enrollment, attendance and academic success.
 - Must include a homeless set-aside at address the unique needs of homeless students.



Title 1A