



# McKinney-Vento Act



## What is the Definition of Homeless?

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless as children lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate residence, and includes:

- children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- children and youths 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 youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- migratory children living in circumstances described above.



## What Rights & Services Do Students Experiencing Homelessness Receive?

- Go to school no matter where they live or how long they have lived there based on the student's best interest.
- Right to attend the school of origin or the local school.
- Be enrolled in school immediately, even if lacking paperwork normally required.
- Receive transportation to and from their school of origin.
- Receive preschool services (as eligible), free school meals, services for English language learners, special education, Title I services, vocational/technical education, gifted and talented services, before and after-school tutoring and services, as needed.
- Go to school with children who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Get information and referrals from local liaisons, including information about all available educational programs; information for parents on how they can support their children's education; and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other services.
- Have the opportunity to meet the same high academic achievement standards as all students.



## Homeless Liaison

All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to designate an appropriate staff member as their local homeless education liaison. The liaison assists with ensuring that children in homeless situations are identified as homeless, are enrolled in school, and are receiving the educational services for which they are eligible.

A list of the homeless liaisons at LEAs in the Region 20 area can be found on the Texas Homeless Education Office website at the link below.