McKinney Vento Act - Homeless Students

Title X School and District Responsibilities
According to the McKinney-Vento Law, each school district must:

1. **Immediately enroll homeless students** in regular school program despite the lack of transcripts, immunization records, and other documentation.
2. **Provide transportation** to homeless students so that they can remain in their school of origin.
3. **Supply materials** to homeless students need to participate in the regular school program and activities.
4. **Enroll** homeless students in free and reduced breakfast and lunch program.
5. **Identify** a Homeless Liaison who will:
    - connect homeless families with available community resources,
    - assist the family or youth efforts to gather documentation typically needed for school and to connect with public health as needed,
    - facilitate the establishment, maintenance, acquisition, and transfer of academic and immunization records for homeless students, and
    - coordinate the training of school staff surrounding the education of homeless students and the McKinney-Vento Law.

The WPSD homeless liaison is Dr. Angela Taylor. You may contact her at 874-3395 or email ataylor@wpsd.us.

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth – Title X

Definition:
Under the McKinney Vento Act, a child is homeless is he/she does not have fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Examples of homeless situations:
(as defined in the McKinney Vento Act)

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. Commonly called doubling-up.
2. Children and youth living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters, abandoned in hospitals, or are awaiting foster care placement.
4. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

5. Unaccompanied youths or runaways. Children in this situation can be described as couch surfers, chronically spending a few nights at one friend's home then moving on to another.

Guidelines for Schools on How to Immunize Homeless Youth

What should the school do if a homeless student appears for enrollment?

Assist the parent in locating immunization records or receiving required immunizations by immediately contacting the local public health clinic or public health nurse.

Call the Alaska Immunization Program (907) 260-8000 or
Call the Alaska immunization Hotline 1 (800) 430-4321 or
Call your Public Health Center for Wrangell

OR

Assist the parent in completing the Immunization Statement for Provisional School Enrollment form to allow the 30-day provisional enrollment period to locate immunization records.

Required Immunization Statement for Provisional School Enrollment, form #05-08-060 – MS Word
Guidance for Provisional Enrollment of Homeless Students without Proof of Immunization – MS Word
Alaska Regulations for Immunizations – MS Word

The school is responsible for helping the student become immunized – here is how:

When a homeless youth appears for enrollment, the school should immediately contact the local public health clinic or public health nurse. Federal law requires that we enroll this homeless student, regardless of immunization status. We believe that through cooperation with the Department of Health and Social Services we can immunize homeless students and ensure our schools are safe for all students.

For questions about enrollment, please contact the school secretary.