

Understanding McKinney-Vento Rights: Information for Parents and Caregivers

Children and youth are eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act if they have been displaced from their homes and live in a place that is not fixed, regular, or adequate. The McKinney-Vento Act affords eligible students a series of protections to promote educational stability and attendance in public schools. The Act applies to all public schools including traditional brick-and-mortar districts, charter schools, and cyber charter schools. It does not apply to students attending private schools. McKinney-Vento eligible students have the right to:

1. Continue attending their current public school, or transfer to the public school where they are temporarily housed.

This decision is made with your student's best interest in mind. Ultimately, the preference of the parent, or the student if unaccompanied, must be prioritized. Your school's McKinney-Vento liaison may discuss factors for you to consider when making this decision, including the student's grade, commute distance, and connection to their current school.

2. Enroll immediately, even if lacking the paperwork normally required.

Your student will be allowed to enroll and attend classes right away, even if you don't have documents such as proof of residency, forms of identification, or immunization records. The school will try to help you obtain any missing documents.

3. Receive transportation to and from school and school-sponsored extracurriculars.

The school will arrange transportation for your student as soon as possible. This could include providing a school bus or other school vehicle, helping to access public transportation, or supporting you in driving your student using your vehicle.

4. Participate in all applicable school programs, including supplemental services and special education.

Your student can participate in any school-sponsored program or activity for which they are eligible. If you face difficulties paying fees, purchasing equipment, or encountering other challenges related to housing instability, the school must help remove these barriers.

5. The opportunity to meet the same challenging academic standards as all students.

If necessary, your student will have the opportunity to participate in tutoring, credit recovery, or other academic support programs offered by the school.

6. Receive free school meals.

If the school participates in the national school lunch program, your student will receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of your family's income level.

7. Remain free from stigmatization by school personnel.

Your child may not be discriminated against or segregated in the school setting based on their housing status.

8. The removal of barriers to your student's education.

You may request support with school clothing, school supplies, or other items necessary for your student's participation in school.

9. Receive information about resources available to you, if requested.

If your family needs additional resources such as food, clothing, housing, early childhood education programs, and medical/dental care, you may request referrals.

10. Appeal the denial of eligibility or enrollment based on MKV status.

If your student is denied McKinney-Vento eligibility or enrollment, you will receive a written notice explaining the decision. You will also receive information about how to dispute this decision and your student's rights during this process.

To see more information for parents of McKinney-Vento-eligible students, visit the [ECYEH Region 2 website \(https://sites.google.com/berksiu.org/ecyeh/learn-the-basics/for-parents-of-mkv-students\)](https://sites.google.com/berksiu.org/ecyeh/learn-the-basics/for-parents-of-mkv-students)

Get Connected to Your Local Liaison

Every public school, including brick-and-mortar districts, charter schools, and cyber-charter schools, has a designated McKinney-Vento liaison to identify and support eligible children and youth. Contact your liaison if you have questions about your rights or would like to be referred to local resources. To find your school's McKinney-Vento contact, visit the [online directory \(https://directory.center-school.org/homeless\)](https://directory.center-school.org/homeless).

ECYEH Region 2

The Region 2 ECYEH office is here to support you. Contact us at ecyeh@berksiu.org or 610-987-8509 if you need help:

- Getting connected with your school's liaison
- Navigating challenges with school enrollment or other educational barriers
- Advocating for the rights of your students