

Shoals Community School Corporation District McKinney-Vento Plan 2025-26



Table of Contents

Section 1: Overview/General Information	3-4
● McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ● Definition of Homelessness ● Residency and Educational Rights ● Procedures for the Dissemination of Educational Rights	
Section 2: Identification and Eligibility	5
● Title I Services and Funding ● School Selection ● Procedures to Identify and Verify Eligibility of McKinney-Vento Students	
Section 3: Services and Standards	6
● Transportation ● Food Services ● Textbooks and Technology ● Academic	
Section 4: Enrollment	7-8
● Enrollment Procedures ○ Immediate Enrollment of Students ○ Enrollment of Unaccompanied Youth ● Appeal and Dispute Processes	
Section 5: Professional Development	9-10
● McKinney-Vento Professional Development Opportunities ● District Website	
Section 6: Educational Staffing and Support	11
● District Liaison’s Roles and Responsibilities ● Building Level Liaison’s Role and Responsibilities	
Section 7: Appendix A: McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire & Form	12
Appendix B: Link to Parent McKinney-Vento Eligibility Appeal Form	12

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW / GENERAL INFORMATION

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.). The Act was originally authorized in 1987 and was most recently reauthorized through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, which took effect December 10, 2016.

The purpose of the McKinney-Vento Act is to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths. Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. SEAs and local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) oversees the implementation of McKinney-Vento requirements in Indiana. School corporations must review and revise policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or academic success of students experiencing homelessness.

Definition of Homeless: (McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C. §11435(2) A homeless child or youth is defined as a child who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

This includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons ("doubled-up")
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative accommodations
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters

- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above conditions
- Unaccompanied Youth – Children or youth who meet the definition of homeless and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Residency and Educational Rights

Students experiencing homelessness in the Shoals Community School Corporation have the right to:

- Immediate enrollment in school even if records normally required for enrollment are not available (IC 20-33-2).
- Attend either:
 - The school of origin, or
 - The local school where the student is currently residing.
- Access to:
 - Free school meals under IC 20-27-11
 - Title I services
 - Educational programs and services comparable to those offered to other students
 - Transportation services as required under IC 20-26-11
- Participate fully in all classes and school activities without discrimination or segregation. Students experiencing homelessness shall not be separated from the mainstream school environment due to their housing status.

Procedures for the Dissemination of Educational Rights

All schools within the Shoals Community School Corporation will ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated in places where children and youth receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

This includes posting notices in all school buildings, school offices, school counseling offices, local shelters, local hotels, the local post office building, city hall, local library, and local food banks. Information will be provided in a manner understandable to parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth.

SECTION 2: IDENTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Title I Services and Funding

In Shoals Community School Corporation, all children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services are automatically eligible for Title I, Part A services, whether or not they attend a Title I, Part A School or meet the academic standards required of other students for eligibility, under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 6315(b)(2)(E)). This eligibility reflects the increased academic risk faced by students experiencing homelessness.

Title I funds may be used to support services such as:

- Tutoring
- School supplies
- Clothing necessary for school participation
- Counseling
- Transportation assistance
- Other educational support services

School Selection

Shoals Community School Corporation will maintain students experiencing homelessness in their school of origin unless it is against the wishes of the parent or guardian or determined to be not in the student's best educational interest.

The school of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the student was last enrolled. Students may remain in their school of origin for the entire time they are homeless, and until the end of the academic year in which permanent housing is obtained. Best-interest determinations will consider educational stability, student safety, travel time, and student preference (especially for unaccompanied youth).

Identification and Verification Procedures of McKinney-Vento Students

Shoals Community School Corporation identifies students experiencing homelessness through the enrollment process.

All students must complete enrollment through the district student management system (Skyward). Enrollment includes completion of the McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire ([Appendix A](#)), which will be used to determine whether the student is experiencing homelessness. If a housing situation that suggests homelessness is identified within the questionnaire, the district or building liaison will follow up within five (5) school days; no

additional documentation is required to determine eligibility. Eligibility determinations are made based on the totality of circumstances, consistent with IDOE guidance.

SECTION 3: SERVICES AND STANDARDS

Transportation

Each Shoals Community School Corporation student experiencing homelessness must receive transportation comparable to that provided to other students. Under IC 20-26-11 and the McKinney-Vento Act, Transportation to the school of origin must be provided upon request. If the student resides outside district boundaries, transportation costs must be shared between districts when appropriate.

Shoals Community School Corporation will:

- Provide transportation to the school of origin when requested by a parent or guardian.
- Provide transportation for unaccompanied youth at the request of the district liaison.

Transportation services will remain available for the entire duration of homelessness.

Food Services

Each Shoals Community School Corporation student experiencing homelessness is automatically eligible for free school meals under IC 20-27-11 and federal nutrition program guidelines. This includes free breakfast and free lunch for the duration of homelessness.

Textbooks and Technology

Each Shoals Community School Corporation student experiencing homelessness shall be provided with services comparable to those offered to other students in the selected school, including access to textbooks, instructional materials, technology, and educational assessments. Shoals Community Schools will waive textbook or technology fees for students identified under McKinney-Vento.

Academic Services

Each Shoals Community School Corporation student experiencing homelessness shall have access to all educational programs for which they are eligible, including Title I services, preschool programs, special education, English Learner Services, Career and Technical Education, and Gifted and Talented programs as available. Schools must ensure equal participation opportunities.

SECTION 4: ENROLLMENT

Immediate Enrollment

Children and youth experiencing homelessness must be **immediately enrolled in Shoals Community School Corporation**, even if they lack:

- Academic records
- Immunization records
- Proof of residency
- Guardianship documentation

Enrolling schools must obtain records from the previous school while the student is enrolled. Under **IC 20-33-2**, school attendance requirements apply to students experiencing homelessness.

Rights of Unaccompanied Youth

Unaccompanied youth have the right to:

- Immediate enrollment
- Remain in their school of origin
- Receive transportation to the school of origin
- Immediately enroll in a new school serving the area in which they are currently living, even if they do not have the required documents, including proof of guardianship.
- Equal access to programs and services such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, and English Language Learner services.
- The McKinney-Vento District Liaison will assist unaccompanied youth and must ensure that the youth understands their educational rights.

Shoals Community School Corporation shall remove any/all barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Students in homeless situations shall be free from segregation, isolation, and stigmatization.

Appeal and Dispute Processes:

If a dispute arises regarding school selection, enrollment, or eligibility, the student must be enrolled immediately in the requested school, the parent, guardian, or youth must receive a written explanation of the decision, the case will be referred to the district McKinney-Vento

liaison, and the dispute will be resolved as quickly as possible in accordance with the enrollment disputed section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:

Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:

1. The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.
2. The parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal.
3. The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.
4. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

*****The McKinney-Vento District Level Team consists of the McKinney-Vento District Liaison, Building Level Liaisons, and the District Superintendent*****

If a dispute arises over qualification for McKinney-Vento services, the child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services provided by Orleans Community Schools, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:

Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:

5. The child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services, pending resolution of the dispute;
6. The parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal (Appendix B)
7. The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as

- possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
8. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth receives all McKinney-Vento rights and services pending resolution of the dispute.

Students must **continue receiving services during the dispute process**.

SECTION 5: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Shoals Community School Corporation will provide annual professional development for staff on McKinney-Vento requirements.

Training will include:

- Identification of homelessness
- Enrollment procedures
- Educational rights
- District responsibilities

Professional development will occur at least once annually at the start of the school year through Vector Training and professional development meetings.

District Website

The Shoals Community School Corporation website will include a dedicated McKinney-Vento page containing:

- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento District Liaison
- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento Building Level Liaison
- Notice of Rights for McKinney-Vento Families
- Dispute Resolution Procedures
- Links to McKinney-Vento state and federal resources

SECTION 6: EDUCATIONAL STAFFING AND SUPPORT

McKinney-Vento District Liaison Responsibilities

School districts or local educational agencies (LEAs) are responsible for identifying homeless children and youth and linking them with educational and other services. The McKinney-Vento Act requires every school district to appoint a local homeless liaison [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)]. The Superintendent will serve as the District McKinney-Vento Liaison for Shoals Community School Corporation and will:

- Ensure that procedures are established and followed across the school district, and that each child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services receives a free and appropriate education.
- Work collaboratively with transportation and food services personnel to coordinate appropriate services for any child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services.
- Disseminate critical information about students' rights in homeless situations to all schools.
- Post information regarding the availability of school programs and services for students facing homeless situations in local shelters, local hotels, the local post office building, city hall, local library, and local food banks.
- Maintain a McKinney-Vento District Liaison Log to document the McKinney-Vento process for each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Plan and facilitate professional development on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for all staff responsible for identifying and working with students experiencing homelessness.
- Work with building-level staff and administration to facilitate the success of the McKinney-Vento program and support each student experiencing homelessness.
- Meet with community agencies and volunteers to share resources and information and to evaluate the impact of services.
- Monitor all district data collection and reporting requirements on each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Attend state-level professional development opportunities.

District McKinney-Vento Liaison

Name: Sue Lanham

Email: sue.lanham@shoals.k12.in.us

Phone: 812-247-2060

Building-Level McKinney-Vento Liaison

Each school in the Shoals Community School Corporation will identify one staff member (social worker, counselor, administrator, etc.) who will serve as a representation on the McKinney-Vento District Level Team and will:

- Identify students who may be experiencing homelessness.
- Monitor school attendance.
- Facilitate training at the building level.
- Ensure that building-level procedures are established and followed to provide each

child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services with a free and appropriate education.

- Post public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations at the school.
- Make sure parents feel welcome and set the tone for further parental involvement.
- Establish a trusting relationship with students and parents.
- Ensure that building-level procedures are established and followed to provide each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services with a free and appropriate education.
- Post public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations at the school.
- Make sure parents feel welcome and set the tone for further parental involvement.
- Establish a trusting relationship with students and parents.

Building Level McKinney-Vento Liaisons for each school are as follows:

Shoals Elementary School

Name: Myrna Green

Email: myrna.green@shoals.k12.in.us

Phone: 812-247-2085

Shoals Middle School

Name: Kelly Wellman-Covey

Email: kelly.wellman@shoals.k12.in.us

Phone: 812-247-1313

Shoals High School

Name: Kallie Fuhrman

Email: kallie.fuhrman@shoals.k12.in.us

Phone: 812-247-2090

SECTION 7: Appendices A – McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire

<https://app.smores.com/n/pxd78>

 Mailing Jan 2026.pdf

McKinney-Vento Parent Guardian Information

We are writing to let you know about the McKinney-Vento Act, a federal law that provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness. If you are struggling with housing insecurity, your child may qualify for support under this act.

Here are some examples of situations that may qualify under McKinney-Vento:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Living in motels, hotels, or campgrounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances

If any of these situations apply to your family, your child may be eligible for certain rights and services, including:

- Immediate enrollment in school, even if you lack typical residency documentation
- Transportation to and from your child's school of origin (the school they attended before becoming homeless)
- Access to free school meals
- Assistance with school supplies and fees
- Support for academic success, such as tutoring or counseling

To help us determine if your child qualifies for McKinney-Vento services, please complete the attached Google Form. This form is confidential and will only be used to assess your family's needs.

The Questionnaire to Determine Eligibility may be accessed at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScM3Hoh6Z-mxEzw3PuoDbdwh-DO70iDoSdMRztIKZFPbZ-w2A/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=117517299783824843796>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school. We are here to support you and your child.

SECTION 8: Appendices B – [Parent McKinney-Vento Eligibility Appeal Form](#)