



ADDITIONAL STATE PROTECTIONS

Some states have enacted additional laws providing further rights to students experiencing homelessness, ensuring full participation in school and the ability to graduate on time.

Check with your Homeless Liaison or with your State's Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

Lisa Way

School Social Worker

KRESA District Homelessness Liaison
269-250-9423



Resources:

Michigan 2-1-1

A free service that connects residents with help and answers from thousands of services agencies/resources right in their community.

- Call 2-1-1
- Text your zip code to 898211

Kalamazoo Dream Center

Clothing, Housewares, Diapers & Briefs
1122 Portage St, 269-270-3580

Deacon's Conference

*Clothing, Furniture, Housewares,
Diapers & Briefs*
1010 N Westnedge Ave, 269-344-7333

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes

Food pantry, including delivery and self-shop
269-343-3663 or info@kzoolf.org

Housing Resources Inc.

Homeless Prevention, Housing Stabilization and
Permanent Supportive Housing

United Way of South Central Michigan

*Housing Stability, Case Management, Academic
Supports, Healthcare and Mentoring*
269-343-2524

Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)

*Homeless Navigation , Case Management,
Wraparound, Youth, Adult, and Family Services*
440 W. Kalamazoo Ave. Kalamazoo,
888-373-6000

Michigan Alliance for Families

Provides information, support, and education for
families who have children who receive special
education services.
www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org



Understanding Your Rights Under the McKinney-Vento Act



Who is Protected?

The McKinney-Vento Act safeguards the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness. This includes students who do not have a **fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**. Including:

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence are public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations 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.
- Migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.



KEY RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Right to School Stability - Students have the right to remain in their school of origin or enroll in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

Immediate Enrollment - The Act mandates immediate enrollment of students experiencing homelessness, even if they do not have required documents such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.

TRANSPORTATION

School districts must provide transportation to and from the school of origin at the request of a parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the local liaison.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Eligible students have the right to access educational and other services they need to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Eligible students are entitled to full participation in school programs and services provided by the district, including free school meals, early childhood education, Special Education, Title I, and extracurricular clubs and sports activities.

HOMELESS LIAISON

Every district has one! This individual will ensure students receive the rights and protections they are entitled to under the McKinney-Vento Act. This individual will help remove barriers to identification, enrollment, access, and school success.



FERPA

Every student has the right to privacy under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student information cannot be shared without parent, guardian, youth permission, unless there is an educational need to know. A student's status as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act is FERPA Protected Information.

DISPUTES

Parent(s), guardians, and youth who disagree with a district decision related to identification, enrollment, or school section have the right to dispute the decision and should receive a written determination of the district's decision. Every district should have a Dispute Resolution process that the liaison will help the parent(s), guardians, or youth move through.