



GREATER LOWELL
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

GLTHS McKinney Vento/Educational Stability Training

School Year 2026-2027



GREATER LOWELL
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Contents of Training

01

Orientation to Education Stability

Understanding and
definitions of groups

02

Awareness

Promoting school-wide
understanding

03

Identification & Rights

Key legal frameworks
and student protections

04

Enrollment

Best practices for
immediate school
access

05

GL Policy & Procedure

District guidelines and
local protocols

Highly Mobile Students

Reference Sheet

agriculture

Migrant

Students or parent(s)/guardian(s) who are migratory agricultural workers, fishers, or processors, are under 21, without a high school diploma, and moved district lines within 36 months.

military_tech

Military

Students whose parent/guardian is an active member of the uniform services, or has been medically discharged, retired, or died in active duty within the past year.

child_care

Foster Care

Students in 24-hour out-of-home care, away from parents/guardians, and for whom DCF (Department of Children and Families) has care and placement responsibilities.

house

Homeless

Students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those sharing housing due to economic hardship, loss of housing, or similar reasons.



Definition of Groups

Highly Mobile Students

agriculture

Migrant Education

Who is a migrant student?

- Child or parent/guardian is a migratory agricultural/fisher/processor worker who moved within 36 months
- Under 21 years of age
- Has not graduated from high school or HiSet
- Moved across school district lines

military_tech

Military Connected

MIC3 Policy Applies to:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services
- Members or veterans severely injured, medically discharged, or retired (for 1 year post-discharge)
- Members who died on active duty or from service injuries (for 1 year post-death)

child_care

Foster Care

Education Stability:

- 24-hour out-of-home care, placed away from parents/guardians under DCF responsibility
- Includes students previously identified as "awaiting Foster Care"
- Homes include: Group homes, foster/kinship homes, STARR, and TCU's

house

Homeless Education

McKinney-Vento Act:

- Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- Includes shelters, campgrounds, parks, cars, hotels, or shared housing
- Includes unaccompanied homeless youth and preschoolers



Understanding Terms

What is a school of origin?

school

When is it established?

The school the student is currently attending or last attended when they:

- **Went Homeless:** The school where the student was attending or last school attended.
- **Placed in Foster Care:** Or at the time of a subsequent change in foster care placement.

local_shipping

Key Requirements

Transportation Mandate

Required to provide transportation through the end of the year in which the student becomes housed, including across state lines.

Educational Stability

Students should remain enrolled in their school of origin, unless a best interest determination decides otherwise.

"Enrolled" is defined as enrolled and attending.



Understanding Terms

What is Equal Access?

lock

Privacy & Consent

The student's living arrangement is protected and cannot be shared without parental consent.

- **Communication Restrictions:** This prohibits talking to a landlord or neighbors without direct parent consent.
- **Information Security:** Student name/address shouldn't be listed on class lists shared with other families.

school

Equal Access Mandate

Students have an absolute right to equal access in all school courses, activities, and events.

- **Programs:** Summer programming and extracurricular activities.
- **Support Services:** EL services, special education, and gifted & talented programs.
- **School Choice:** Alternative education, vocational schools, and standard school choice.



Part 2: Awareness

Why Educational Stability?

trending_down

The Impact of Mobility

DESE notes that changing schools even once can have profound effects on a student's development and adjustment.

- **4–6 Months to Adjust:** The time required for an otherwise stable student to adapt to a new building, new classmates, and new teachers.
- **Primary Warning Sign:** One of the most immediate and visible indicators of a lack of educational stability is student disengagement.

school

School as a Crucial Anchor

Going to school is a significant part of a child's life, serving as a hub for critical resources and stability:

- **Consistency & Safety:** Provides structural routines, a predictable environment, and a strong network of supports.
- **Essential Care:** Guarantees nutritious breakfast and lunch, while keeping students warm and dry in the winter.
- **Holistic Services:** Gives access to essential medical, dental, and mental health services.
- **Social Development:** Creates vital spaces where new skills are learned and lasting friends are made.



High Mobility

A Culmination of Experiences

analytics

The Cumulative Impact

Highly mobile students encounter many obstacles that have a tremendous impact on their daily lives. Rarely is one event the cause; rather, it is a combination of factors that disrupt their education and hinder their potential.

35,000+

Highly Mobile Students

in Massachusetts each year. (DESE Statistic)

layers

Contributing Experiences & Obstacles

- Lack of affordable housing
- High rent and evictions
- Poor quality education
- Generational poverty
- Systemic racism
- Low wages / Debt
- Lost jobs / cut hours
- Abuse and neglect
- Utility arrearages
- Poor health / crisis
- Mental illness
- Medical bills
- Multiple placements
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- Language barriers
- Immigration challenges
- Multiple deployments
- Exploitation



Impact of Mobility

What does the data tell us?

trending_up

Increased Risk Factors

Highly mobile students experience a rise in adverse academic behaviors and risks:

- **Chronic Absenteeism:** Substantially higher rates of missing school consistently.
- **Higher Dropout Rates:** Elevated likelihood of leaving school before completion.

trending_down

Decreased Academic Outcomes

Mobility is strongly linked to a decline in key performance milestones:

- **Lower Proficiency Rates:** Reduced mastery of core academic standards.
- **Lower Graduation Rates:** Fewer students completing their high school education on time.
- **Higher Education Obstacles:** Lower rates of enrollment and completion in post-secondary education.



Educational Stability

What are the results when the focus is on stability?

star

Key Benefits of Stability

Consistent educational environments lead to immediate improvements in student development and community connection:

- **Improve Attendance:** Boosts daily participation and school engagement.
- **Steady Progress:** Fosters consistent academic growth and milestones.
- **Relationship Continuity:** Sustains vital connections with peers and teachers.
- **On-Time Graduation:** Strongly correlates with high school completion.

shield

Mitigating High Mobility

Highly mobile students face continuous disruptions. Educational stability serves as a crucial protective framework to ensure no student falls behind due to changing circumstances.

The Strategic Goal

"Educational stability directly aims to mitigate the severe academic and social consequences of high mobility."



Part 3: Identification and Rights

Student Group Educational Protections & Entitlements

public Migrant Students

- Enroll locally and fully participate in all school activities.
- Access any services they are eligible for (including MMEP).

** Many may also be homeless and have McKinney-Vento rights.*

shield Military-Connected Students

- Immediate local enrollment & rapid record transfer.
- Grade placement and previous coursework honored.
- Excused attendance for deployments; graduation support.
- Self-report option for active duty parent status.

home Students in Foster Care

- Remain in school of origin with provided transportation.
- Immediate enrollment locally even without prior records.
- Prompt district-to-district record transfer.

** Rights depend on current placement under Title I Part A.*

nightlight_round Homeless Students

- Remain in school of origin with transportation support.
- Immediate local enrollment; living status is protected.
- Access to free school meals & FAFSA/HUD verifications.
- Full participation in all standard academic activities.

contact_support if you have students who may fall into these categories: Contact the student's school counselor ASAP to coordinate services with the Director of School Counseling, McKinney-Vento Coordinator, or Foster Care Contact.



Students may fall into more than one category

Some students meet multiple subgroup definitions over the course of the school year:

public

Migrant Students

Migrant students may also be homeless and have educational rights under McKinney-Vento.

home

Students in Foster Care

Students in foster care may also have been homeless during the school year.

** Their rights will depend on their current living arrangement/placement.*

shield

Military Families

Students in active military families may also have been homeless or in foster care.

** Their rights will depend on their current living arrangement/placement.*



Part 4: Enrollment

Homeless Student Rights & Enrollment Protections

assignment_turned_in

Immediate Enrollment Locally

With or without documentation

Homeless students have the right to be enrolled immediately. This includes access even if lacking:

- **Academic & health records**
- **Residency or shelter proof**
- **Special Education & discipline records**
- **Guardianship & emergency contacts**

people

Scope & Student Subgroups

Specific provisions apply to ensure all eligible youth are fully supported:

- **Unaccompanied Youth:** Applies directly to unaccompanied youth, including out-of-school youth.
- **Foster Care Students:** Enrolled locally (where placed) when determined to be in their best interest.
- **Military Families:** Support to ensure timely enrollment, appropriate placement, and attendance due to deployment.

warning **NOTE:** Homeless living arrangements are **NOT** Directory Information.



Caregiver Affidavits

Educational & Medical Decision-Making Rights

Legal Framework & Scope

In the absence of a parent or legal guardian...

Massachusetts state law allows for a caregiver's affidavit to establish critical authority for minors when parents are unavailable.

- **Educational Rights:** Enables enrollment, schedule management, and standard school consent.
- **Medical Rights:** Authorizes healthcare decisions, treatments, and access to medical history.

assignment_turned_in Affidavit Requirements

To be legally valid and recognized by institutions, the document must meet strict requirements:

- **Identify the Student:** Must clearly state student name and date of birth.
- **Signatures:** Must be signed by both parent and caregiver.
- **Notarization:** The entire document must be officially notarized.
- **Validity:** Good for up to two years from the signing date.
- **Revocation:** Can be revoked or overridden by parent at any time.

warning **Note on Housing Status:** Students with a caregiver's affidavit are considered **housed** unless the caregiver lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing.



Immigration Status

Local Enrollment Rights & Requirements

people Established Families

For established immigrant families residing in the district, standard local enrollment options are available:

- **Caregiver's Affidavit:** Can be utilized to establish authority for school enrollment and medical decisions.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Current emergency contact information must be provided and kept up-to-date.

explore Newly Arrived Families

For newly arrived families facing unstable housing or seeking immediate sponsorship integration:

- **Homelessness & Sponsors:** Determine if students qualify for McKinney-Vento protections or are under sponsor care.
- **Lacking Documentation:** Enrollment is maintained while documentation is obtained (held until court appearance).

gavel **MANDATE:** Immigrant children have the **RIGHT** to enroll locally regardless of their immigration status.



GL Policy and Procedure

Non-Discrimination Guidelines & Homeless Student Protections

shield Non-Discrimination Policy

GLTHS does not discriminate in the administration of its educational and employment policies, programs, practices, or activities on the basis of:

- **Race, Color, or Creed**
- **Sex, Orientation, & Gender Identity**
- **Disability & Veteran Status**
- **Pregnancy & Homelessness**

home McKinney-Vento Compliance

GLTHS complies with all requirements of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This mandate requires school districts to immediately enroll and provide necessary support to homeless students.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

warning ACTION REQUIRED: If you become aware that a student has become homeless, please contact the **Homeless Liaison** and the school counselor.



Additional GLTHS Resources

Support Services & Student Referral Procedures

checkroom Catie's Closet Referral

Follow these steps to refer a student in need of clothes or toiletries:

- **1. Referral:** Staff submits the student's name to their School Counselor (or Adjustment Counselor for Special Ed).
- **2. Assessment:** Counselor meets with the student to assess needs and arranges a "shopping" visit.
- **3. Tracking:** Counselor submits the referral to the Director of School Counseling for record-keeping and financial tracking.
- **4. Visit & Log:** Authorized staff escorts the student to the closet, coordinates with keyholders, and logs the visit.

shopping_basket Food Pantry Referral

Follow these steps to refer a student for food pantry assistance:

- **1. Initial Contact:** Staff provides the name of a student in need to School Counseling or the Special Education Department.
- **2. Assessment & Escort:** Counseling personnel assess need, escort the student to the pantry, and notify the Director of School Counseling.
- **3. Sign-In Log:** The escorting staff member logs the visit details: Date, grade, age, gender, and quantity of products received.

people Authorized Staff escorts with building-access permission: Adjustment Counselors, School Psychologists, Nurses, Student Activities Coordinator, and School Counselors.



McKinney Vento & Foster Care

Liaison & Support Services Contact Information

home McKinney Vento Liaison

Tracy Encarnacao

Director of School Counseling

Email Contact:

tencarnacao@gltech.org

Phone Support:

978-441-4955

child_care Foster Care Contact

Tracy Encarnacao

Director of School Counseling

Email Contact:

tencarnacao@gltech.org

Phone Support:

978-441-4955

school DESE Training Source: Information on slides is taken from DESE trainings regarding the McKinney Vento Homeless Education

Act. Access additional resources [here](#).

