

McKinney-Vento Act: Family Guide

Ensuring educational stability, immediate access, and academic success for every student.

What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of children and youth experiencing temporary housing challenges. It ensures that students have stability and access to the support services they need to thrive in school, regardless of their current housing situation.

Who Qualifies for Support?

Under federal law, any child or youth who **lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence** is eligible for McKinney-Vento protections. This includes students who are:

- **Sharing the housing of others** (doubled-up) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- **Staying in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds** due to the lack of an adequate alternative.
- **Living in emergency or transitional shelters.**
- **Sleeping in cars, parks, public spaces**, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar temporary settings.
- **Unaccompanied youth** who are experiencing homelessness and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Your Rights & School Supports

1. Immediate School Enrollment

Students have the right to enroll in school immediately and begin fully participating in all classes and school activities. They **cannot be turned away** for missing registration deadlines, or lacking standard documents such as academic records, proof of residency, or immunization and health records.

2. School Stability (School of Origin)

Students can continue attending their **School of Origin** (the school they attended when they had permanent housing, or the school last enrolled) for the entire duration of their homelessness, and until the end of the school year in which they obtain permanent housing, if it is in their best interest.

3. Transportation Services

Avon Grove Charter School must provide or arrange **free, reliable transportation** to and from the School of Origin for any student experiencing housing instability.

4. Complete Support & Services

Our team will help connect your student to **additional essential supports**, including: free school meals, academic assistance (removing barriers due to fees, fines, or absences), preschool programs (such as Head Start), credit recovery, college counseling, and direct referrals to community services (housing, health, dental, and mental health services).

5. Dispute Resolution

If a dispute ever arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment, the student is **guaranteed immediate enrollment** and full participation in the school of choice, pending a swift and fair resolution of the dispute and all appeals.

We Are Here For Your Family • Contact Our Homeless Liaison

If your family is in a temporary or unstable housing situation, we want to help ensure your student's education remains stable and successful. **Every family's situation is kept strictly confidential.** Please reach out to our Dedicated Homeless Liaison directly, or ask any teacher or school staff member to connect you. We will make sure you receive all eligible supports quickly and with dignity.

Dedicated Liaison: Jen Weaver | Email: jweaver@agcharter.org | Avon Grove Charter School