Tips for Administrators

HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY

Know the Law

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Eligible students lack a "fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence" or are "Unaccompanied minors" (no caregiver or guardian available). The law requires that all LEAs ensure that eligible students have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including preschool, as provided to other students.

Examples of eligible housing include:

- "Doubled Up" housing (Sharing housing of others due to loss of housing, or economic hardship)
- Motels or hotels
- Shelters or transitional housing
- Living in parks, streets, cars, camping trailers, or other structures not suitable for habitation.

Basic Rights include:

- Immediate enrollment – enrollment documents can be submitted at a later date
- Right to attend school of origin (last school attended or when permanently housed) OR neighborhood school
- Right to remain in current school for remainder of school year even if housing is stabilized
- Right to confidentiality regarding their living situation

Your local McKinney-Vento Liaison:

Know the Signs

Indicators of possible housing instability:

- Poor attendance or tardiness
- Inability to complete special projects or homework/lack of school supplies
- Food hoarding or taking food
- Social and emotional challenges such as extreme shyness, withdrawal, or aggression; difficulty with social relationships or acknowledging adult authority
- Lack of clean clothing, poor hygiene and health
- Limited parent involvement
- **No access to technology devices and internet connections or unable to participate in remote learning**

Orange County Department of Education:
HOPES Collaborative, Contact list of all OC Liaisons
https://ocde.us/mv

Know How to Help

- Ensure all staff are trained on McKinney-Vento Legislation
- Identify a site designee to streamline supports and services
- Be responsible for identifying and tracking the number of homeless students and update data regularly
- Verify student numbers with district liaison for census data and year end reporting
- Reinforce the safety, and social emotional needs of students
- Train staff to respond to students and families experiencing homelessness empathetically, respectfully and with dignity
- Be aware of your attendance zone and be aware of shelters, transitional housing and motels in the area
- Invite McKinney-Vento parents to school and community meetings
- Provide city bus passes to get parent to school for conferences, school events, or PTA meetings
- Support the school staff as they work with the students and families
- Display McKinney-Vento materials in accessible areas for students, families and staff (enrollment, guidance counselor, and nurse offices)

Contact your local Mc Kinney- Vento Liaison for guidance and resources.

California Department of Education
Homeless Education Team |
HomelessEd@cde.ca.gov