Information for

School-Age Youth



IF YOU ARE STAYING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- In a shelter or transitional housing
- In a motel, hotel, or campground because you don't have another safe and stable place to stay
- In a car, park, public place, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- In someone else's house because you lost your housing or are going through a hard time financially and don't have another safe and stable place to stay

You might qualify for help at school under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, even if you are on your own and not with a parent or guardian.

If you qualify under the McKinney-Vento Act, you have the right to:

Go to public school for free and participate fully in school activities.

Enroll in school immediately and go to class, even if you don't have the documents normally required for school. The school where you are enrolled is responsible for helping you get any documents needed to keep attending classes.

Enroll in the local school near where you're staying or continue going to your school of origin (the school you went to when you last had a safe and stable place to live or the school where you were last enrolled), based on where you think would be best for you to go to school.

If the school district thinks that where you want to go to school is not in your best interest, the district has to tell you in writing why it thinks another school would be better for you and give you the opportunity to appeal its decision if you want to do that. The district also has to connect you with the McKinney-Vento district liaison, who has to help you understand your right to appeal.

Get transportation to and from your school of origin, if you keep going to this school and ask for transportation.

Get help at school that is similar to the help other students get, based on what you might need. These services could include transportation, academic help, and free meals at school.

NCHE
National Center for Homeless Education

McKinney-Vento Local Liaison
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