

Task:	Guidance for Schools: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Revision Date	August, 2024
Description and Notifications:	The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) is a law that protects students and youth experiencing homelessness. The law requires every state to monitor the identification of students facing homelessness and provide the necessary support to reduce the many barriers that prevent students from succeeding in school. The law requires school districts to designate a Liaison to help monitor the identification of students, student rights are adhered to, professional development offered to increase awareness of the law across the district and in the community and ensuring efforts are made to reduce barriers to services and supports. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless as follows: The term "homeless children and youths"- lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes: • 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 that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C)); • Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and • 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 in clauses (i) through (iii) *Per Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, "awaiting foster care placement" was removed from the definition of homeless on December 10, 2016; Students living in foster care are now protected under the act. Unaccompanied homeless youth are young people experiencing homelessness who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Definitions and Guidance	SUPPORTING STUDENTS FACING HOMELESSNESS Providence Schools is committed to supporting one of our most vulnerable populations – students facing homelessness. Many families struggle with the day-to-day challenges of life while they simultaneously strive to find employment, secure stable housing and provide food and shelter for their family. Providence Schools care about every single student enrolled in our schools and their families. The City of Providence is filled with many supportive agencies and the district will do all that is possible to connect families with local and state organizations, private or non-profit, to help guide the path to self-sufficiency and social and emotional stability. Every homeless student has the right to a free, equitable and quality education. Identifying students and families is the biggest challenge. For families living temporarily, due to a substantial hardship, at a shelter or with another family, hotel, mobile home or in a car or street, call the Family and Community Engagement Office for assistance at 401-456-0686.
Guidance Reference	Source: https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition
Responsibility:	Identifying students and families is a shared responsibility across the district. This includes School principals and assistant principals; school student support teams which may include, but is not limited to, school counselors, nurses, social workers, community specialists, community partners, teachers and other support staff.

Process Steps:

Step 1:

- (a) **Self Identification:** Families/students self identify if they are living temporarily with another family, shelter, hotel, mobile home or in a car or street. They may call the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Office for assistance at 401-456-0686.
- (b) **School Referral:** If families/students inform school staff of their hardship, school staff must notify support staff including the principal and social worker of the information disclosed. The support staff is equipped to share and refer families to a local or state agency. They will complete the McKinney Vento referral form found in the district [McKinney Vento website page](#). FACE Office staff will then follow up with the family to gather information to better direct them to necessary resources.

Step 2: McKinney Vento Report will be pulled on a weekly basis from Skyward. Schools will receive the reports by the school of identified students. This list will help schools offer support to families in a timely manner. They will also be able to work to support students' attendance as other related student needs such as afterschool programs, backpack programs offering families non-perishable foods from local pantries, breakfast, lunch and available snacks for students traveling across the state.

*Please see the [website](#) for a list of statewide pantries and other available resources in the McKinney Vento website page.

Step 2: FACE Office staff will review data entered in the referral form then connect with families to confirm information shared and learn more about the family hardship leading to McKinney Vento status.

Step 3: FACE Office staff will complete the "Homeless Tab" in skyward, which will immediately generate the code 'M' in Skyward for the student. This will alert schools of the McKinney Vento status. Skyward will be generating an automatic report for school leaders, which will be shared weekly for schools to work with their student support teams and offer support, based on the needs of the student and their family.

- Schools can not withdraw students who are labeled with McKinney Vento status
- Schools can not refer a student to Truancy or Family Court who are labeled with McKinney Vento status

Step 4: Schools will work with the school support staff which may include, but is not limited to, school counselors, social workers, nurses, and other support staff to work on a plan of support for the student and families. Involve community partner agencies as appropriate, especially, if the student is involved in a program and has an established relationship with the student and family.

	<u>Step 5:</u> FACE Office will request transportation (based on eligibility) for PPSD services and or Statewide services, when the family finds shelter in and outside of Providence. ● FACE remains a point of contact for transportation until its confirmed family no longer needs the services. Soon as a family discloses they found permanent housing and or do not need transportation services any longer, the school immediately must inform the FACE Office to cancel transportation with PPSD Transportation Office or Statewide Transportation. ● FACE Office will refer families as needed to Crossroads and or other local/state agencies as agreed by the family. ● 797 Westminster St address will be entered in the Home address ONLY. ○ For families facing <u>domestic violence</u> OR <u>requesting nondisclosure or mailings to the temporary address</u> (ex: staying temporarily at subsidized housing with other families who may be at risk of violating their rental agreements. <i>*Professional Development on the McKinney Vento Act and PPSD protocols and procedures, supports and services is hosted annually by the FACE Team and posted in Frontline. Schools are encouraged to invite the FACE Team to School Based PD's to ensure entire school teams are aware how to help identify and support McKinney Vento students and families.</i>
Resources:	The PPSD FACE Office can help in collaboration with school staff with: ● Answering questions and concerns about the district or school. ● Enrolling in school with flexibility for required documents. ● Connecting families to transportation services, in district or out of district, for a school bus to and from school, RIPTIKs or RIPTA monthly bus passes, as appropriate and necessary. ● Receiving free and reduced priced lunch for any grade. ● Participating in afterschool or extracurricular activities. ● Providing basic school supplies, hygiene products, basic personal supplies and or referral for clothing. ● Providing guidance and connections to helpful resources for youth who are on their own. ● Help with translation. ● Refer families to other local and state resources. <u>All resources are listed on the Providence Public School District's website (also listed below)</u> SOCIAL SERVICES

	Community Action Partnership PROCAP, BVCAP, Westbay Community Action The organization operates, promotes and supports the development of human service programs aimed at improving the lives of low-to-moderate income individuals and families living in Providence County. SERVICES Food bank Energy Assistance Education and Job training CAPP Main Phone: (401) 273-2000 Blackstone Valley CAPP – Contact Info: Main Office: (401) 723-4520 Heating Assistance: (401) 723-0227 Legal Services: Rhode Island Legal Services provides high quality legal assistance and representation to low-income individuals and eligible client groups for the purpose of improving their economic condition and overall wellbeing by protecting and enforcing legal rights, stabilizing the family unit and communities where clients live, promoting self-reliance, ending domestic violence, preventing homelessness, affording dignity to all people, and reaching out to groups with added burdens on their ability to access the civil justice system. (401) 732-4660 Furniture Bank The Furniture Bank of Rhode Island is a non-profit organization that provides free and affordable home furnishings to low-income families. Address: 70 Ernest St, Providence, RI 02905 Phone: (401) 831-5511 United Way of RI 211 Provides information on social services in Rhode Island. https://www.uwri.org/2-1-1/ PVD311 Providence city departments and services. You can also call by dialing 3-1-1 or download “PVD311” on your smart phone for 24/7 access. Rhode Island Department of Human Services (RIDHS) Provide supportive services for children, family, and youth Executive Office, Louis Pasteur Building 25 Howard Avenue Cranston, Rhode Island 02920 (401) 462-2121; http://www.dhs.ri.gov/DHSOffices/index.php.
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HOUSING

Crossroads Rhode Island

Leading homeless services organization in the state.

<https://www.crossroadsri.org/>.

House of Hope CDC

Home to Hope (H2-H) responds to homelessness and housing instability for youth and young adults (ages 13-24) who are victims of violence, with an intentional focus on LGBTQ youth. Long term goals include housing and supportive services which allow youth to thrive and live independently.

Emergency Shelter 401-277-4316 OR for resources 401-463-3324 x203.
thehouseofhopecdc.org

HousingWorksRI

Advocates for housing affordability, policy and access.

HousingWorks RI at Roger Williams University, Suite 545, 1 Empire Plaza, Providence, RI 02903. (401) 276-4806; <https://www.housingworksri.org/>.

Providence Housing Authority (PHA)

Provides housing and services, Section 8 programs specifically serving low income families as well as Elderly and the disabled.

100 Broad St, Providence, RI 02903. (401) 751-6400.

<https://provhousing.org>.

FOOD PANTRY

[Download the Rhode Island Community Food Bank Food Assistance List](#)

Rhode Island Community Food Bank

200 Niantic Avenue

Providence, RI 02907

(401) 942-6325

Federal Hill House - Food Pantry and Social Services

35 Swiss Street

Providence, RI 02909

(401) 421-1095

Capital City Food Pantry

263 Chad Brown Street

Providence, RI 02908

(401) 413-1077

Federal Hill House - Olneyville Food Center

261 Manton Avenue

(Corner of Pope St.)

Providence, RI 02909

(401) 714-0057

Interfaith Food Ministry

95 Hathaway Ctr #61
Providence, RI 02907
(401) 965-1854

Providence Rescue Mission

627 Cranston Street
Providence, RI 02907
(401) 274-8861

Holy Ghost Church - Providence

472 Atwells Avenue
Providence, RI 02909
(401) 421-3551

Better Lives Rhode Island

15 Hayes Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 454-7422

The Salvation Army - Providence Corps

386 Broad Street
Providence, RI 02907
(401) 831-1119

CLOTHING:

The Salvation Army

386 Broad Street,
Providence, RI 02905
(401) 831-1119

Camp Street Community Ministries

194 Camp Street
Providence, RI 02906
(401) 421-5474

Christian Churches, Thanksgiving Baskets, Holiday Gifts/Toys, Clothing, Food Pantries

Clothes to Kids RI

Provide new and quality used clothing to low-income or in-crisis, school-age children in Providence County, Rhode Island—free of charge.

*Call for an appointment.

77 Reservoir Ave #5
Providence, RI 02907

	(401) 941-8050 https://clothestokidsri.org/. HeadsUp Personal/Grooming Supplies, clothing 134 Mathewson Street Providence, RI 02903 (401) 331-1069 HEALTH: Providence Community Health Center Providing regular check-ups, respite area, dental care, OB/GYN services, medication prescriptions and mental health counseling. To make an appointment with the Providence Community Health Center at 160 Broad Street call (401) 861-2403. Rhode Department of Health (RIDOH) - www.health.ri.gov HOMELESS ADVOCACY Crossroads Coordinated Entry Coordinated Entry is a standardized assessment and referral process that helps rapidly end each household's homelessness by connecting them with appropriate shelter, housing and resources as quickly as possible. Call if you are or if someone you know is at risk of becoming homeless. (401) 277-4316 Statewide Homeless Liaisons Contact list for statewide school district Homeless Liaisons in Rhode Island. (updated annually from RIDE website) Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless Works to prevent and end homelessness https://www.rihomeless.org/. National Coalition for the Homeless National network of people working to end and prevent homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights are respected and protected. http://nationalhomeless.org/. National Center for Homeless Education U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.
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	Warning signs of homelessness: http://center.serve.org/nche/nche/warning.html http://nche.ed.gov; Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org National Child Traumatic Stress Network http://www.NCTSNet.org National Center on Family Homelessness “Understanding Traumatic Stress in Children” http://www.air.org/resource/understanding-traumatic-stress-children SchoolHouse Connection http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/ https://www.facebook.com/SchoolHouseConnection/ National Network for Youth http://www.nn4youth.org
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