



Welcome to MISD

Welcome to Midland ISD! This packet is designed to help meet the needs of our Highly Mobile and At Risk Student population which includes: McKinney-Vento, Foster care. The goal of Midland ISD is to ensure that all students have access to programs, resources and support that helps create paths towards their academic success.

Your student has been identified for the following program(s):

❑ McKinney-Vento:

The term “homeless children and youth”:

- A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes
 - a. 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;
 - b. 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;
 - c. children and youths who are living in RV’s, cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - d. migratory children...who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii)

- ❑ Foster care:** The general term “foster care” for education purposes includes all students in the managing conservatorship (legal custody) of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This includes students placed by DFPS with a Kinship caregiver, when the child remains in the legal custody of Texas DFPS. Acceptable documentation includes all forms in the 2085 series.



For additional information about programs or services please see contacts for each area below:

Important District Contact Numbers

Main Line: 432-240-1000

Child Nutrition: 432-240-1840	Director of Counseling: 432-240-1000
Transportation: 432-240-1700	Special Services: 432-240-1401
Student Services: 432-240-1520	Technology Help Desk: 432-240-1111
MISD Health Service: 432-240-1000	

Food Resources / Emergency Shelter & Housing / Medical & Health Services

<https://pbconnect.org/> or <https://www.findhelp.org/> or Dial 211

Texas Health and Human Services

- <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/regional-local-healthoperations/texas-public-health-region-1>

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Dial: 988

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 888-311-7755

Student Code of Conduct

You can find the code of conduct at the following:

Please visit the Highland Park website for more information.

www.midlandisd.net

MISD Handbook:

You can find the code of conduct at the following:

Please visit the Midland ISD website for more information. www.midlandisd.net

District Calendar:

You can find the school district calendar at the following:

Please visit the Midland ISD website for more information. www.midlandisd.net



The goal of our district's Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Services Program is to assist students and families who are in transitional living situations. "Homeless children and youth" in education are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

McKinney-Vento Educational Definition of Homelessness

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds, due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals
- McKinney-Vento Educational Definition of Homelessness
- Living in a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)]
- Unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C § 11434a(6)] Students who are homeless are not required to provide proof of residency to be enrolled.

Students will have immediate enrollment and will be given a provisional period of **30 days** to present other needed documentation.

The education provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act, which are now incorporated within the Every Student Succeeds Act, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act specifies and protects the rights of children and youth in homeless situations. Highlights include:

- Immediate enrollment
- Free breakfast and lunch
- Transportation, as law requires
- Option of attending the school of zone or school of origin (the school last attended before or at the time the student became homeless)



- Services (GT, SPED, ELL, Vocational education, and Tutoring) Students may receive school uniforms, school supplies, personal hygiene products, and any other supplies and services needed upon availability.)
- Dispute Resolution

A student qualifies for McKinney-Vento services, by filling out the Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ). The campus counselor will review your application for eligibility.

Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth

Enrollment

- Homeless students have the right to immediate enrollment. A school must immediately enroll a homeless student, even if the student does not have documents normally required for enrollment, such as academic and medical/immunization records or proof of residency. Once enrolled, the campus must help the family obtain the necessary records and/or immunizations.

Academic Achievement

- Students must have access to educational and supplemental resources to achieve academic success. LEAs must demonstrate how they will close the achievement gap between students who are meeting and students who are not meeting the state academic standards.
- Homeless students who qualify for special education services must be provided appropriate services based on the information that is available to the school. A school may not delay providing such services based on the non-receipt of school records.

Segregation/Stigmatization

- LEAs cannot separate students from the mainstream school environment.
- Homeless students have the right to participate in the same programs and activities as other students.



School Choice

- Identified homeless students may attend either the school of origin or the school of residence; Homeless liaisons are asked to support unaccompanied youth in this choice.
- The “school of origin” *is the school where the child or youth was last enrolled or the school the child or youth was attending when s/he became homeless.*
- The school district shall keep a student in the “school of origin” unless it goes against the wishes of the parent. The student also has the option of enrolling in school where he is currently living.
 - The school district must make placement decisions based on the best interests of the student.
 - If a student obtains permanent housing during the school year, the student has the right to stay in their current school until the end of the school year.

Transportation

- LEAs, to the extent feasible, must provide means of traveling to the school of origin
- Transportation eligibility through McKinney Vento services lasts until the end of the school year in which the student is identified. *McKinney Vento students must abide by transportation rules and procedures.*
- The parent or guardian (or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the school homeless liaison) of a homeless student may request that transportation be provided to and from school. If the student is still in the same district as the school of origin, the school district must provide transportation. If the student is not living within the district of the school of origin, the district of origin and the district where the student is living must determine how to *share* transportation costs and responsibility. If the districts cannot come to an agreement, then the responsibility and costs must be shared equally. In general, transportation time should be limited to one hour or less in each direction.
- Please note, the transportation provisions of McKinney-Vento only apply to students who are currently homeless. **If a student obtains permanent housing and continues to attend his/her school of origin until the end of the school year, the continued provision of transportation is at the discretion of the district of origin.**



Dispute Resolution

- Dispute Resolution states that the law requires the following minimum procedures when a dispute arises under the McKinney-Vento Act. 1. The child or youth “shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute” [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (3) (E) (i)]. In disputes involving unaccompanied homeless youth, the local liaison must ensure that unaccompanied homeless youth are immediately enrolled in school [42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g) (3) (E)(iv)]. The U.S. Department of Education emphasizes the importance of the requirement for enrollment during the dispute process in the 2004 Non-Regulatory Guidance When enrollment disputes arise, it is critical that students are not kept out of school. Interruption of education can severely disrupt the student’s academic progress resolving school placement disputes. To avoid such disruptions, LEAs need an established process for permitting students to enroll immediately in the school of choice pending resolution of disputes helps provide needed stability [G-5].

While disputes are pending, students have the right to participate fully in school and receive all services which they would normally receive. This includes transportation services, as indicated by the Non-Regulatory Guidance.

Information on Fee Waivers

Testing Fee Waivers for college entrance exams (this type of waiver waives the fee to take the exam).

- SAT
- ACT
- College Application Fee Waivers (this type of waiver waives the application fee to apply to the college/university).

Tutoring Opportunities

McKinney Vento Students will be eligible to receive individual or group tutoring. Please refer to the campus office for the appropriate personnel for arranging this service.



Extracurricular Activities and Clubs

Our school is committed to providing enrichment opportunities for all students. Each school campus offers a variety of activities. For more information, please visit your school office for a list of activities, clubs, and enrichment opportunities for your student.

Under the Act, every school district is required to have a Homeless Education Liaison. It is the job of the Liaison to ensure that homeless students have the same opportunities as all other students, which includes ensuring that homeless students are able to attend school, availability of transportation when feasible, keeping the school staff informed of the rights of homeless students and providing appropriate referrals to service providers.

Midland ISD McKinney Vento Liaison:

Elizabeth C. Garza

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The goal of Midland ISD is to assist students and families who are in Foster Care. "Foster care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, childcare institutions, and pre adoptive homes."

School Enrollment and Services for Foster Care Students

Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 requirements regarding education stability for children in foster care

The federal Fostering Connections Act requires each state's child welfare agency to ensure education stability for children in foster care, among many other provisions. The child welfare system is required to provide assurances that

- **Immediate Enrollment**
 - A child coming into foster care is able to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement, unless it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the same school.
 - Regardless of whether they have the necessary documentation and paperwork. CPS caseworkers are required to enroll a child in school within three (3) school days of the child either:
 - a. being placed in CPS custody
 - b. moving to a new school or placement.

The caseworker then has up to **30 days** to provide all necessary enrollment paperwork to the new school.

- The placement of the child takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of each placement or move.
- Unless a determination is made that remaining in the current school is not in the best interests of the child, the child is immediately enrolled in a new school with all of the educational records of the child provided to the school.

The child welfare agency is also directed to "coordinate" with LEAs to ensure education stability requirements are met and then has up to **30 days** to provide all necessary enrollment paperwork to the new school.



The following laws are identified in the Texas Education Code addressing students in foster care:

- Data sharing and data collection requirements in PEIMS - [TEC § 7.029](#) ([Chapter 1](#) (PDF), p. 16; [Chapter 5](#) (PDF), pgs. 45-46)
- Immediate school enrollment without records - [TEC § 25.002\(g\)](#) ([Chapter 7](#) (PDF), p. 56)
- Attendance in the school the student was enrolled immediately before entering conservatorship, even when placed outside of the district attendance zone, until the student successfully completes the highest grade level offered by the school - [TEC § 25.001\(g\)](#) ([Chapter 8](#) (PDF), p. 62)
- Excused absences for court-ordered appointments - [TEC § 25.087](#) ([Chapter 10](#) (PDF), p. 75)
- 11th or 12th grade student who transfers to a new school district and does not meet the graduation requirements of the new school district may request a diploma from the former school district, when on-track to graduate at the previous school - [TEC § 28.025](#) ([Chapter 9](#) (PDF), p. 92)
- Free eligibility for PRE-K - [TEC § 29.153\(b\)\(6\)](#) ([Chapter 10](#) (PDF), p. 74)
- Accelerated instruction (at-risk indicators and compensatory education) - [TEC § 29.081\(d\)\(11\)](#) ([Chapter 6](#) (PDF), p. 51; [Chapter 11](#) (PDF), pgs. 82-83)
- Free lifetime college tuition and fees waiver. The waiver is activated when a student enrolls in dual credit or another course where a student may earn college credit- [TEC § 54.366](#) – ([Chapter 13](#) (PDF), pgs. 104-106)
- School districts and open enrollment charter schools are required to appoint a Foster Care Liaison and notify TEA of their Foster Care Liaison appointment - [TEC § 33.904](#) ([Chapter 5](#) (PDF), p. 44)
- Transition Assistance from one school to another of students in foster care - [TEC § 25.007](#) ([Chapter 11](#) (PDF), pgs. 84-91).

Midland ISD Foster Care Liaison:
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