

McKinney-Vento: Education Rights for Students & Families Experiencing Homelessness

Every child has the right to a free, quality education — no matter where they live.

The *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act* protects the rights of students who do not have a fixed, regular, and adequate place to live.

Who Qualifies?

You may qualify if you or your child are:

- Staying in a **shelter, motel/hotel, or campground**
- Living in a **car, park, or abandoned building**
- Staying **temporarily with relatives or friends** because you lost housing or can't afford a place to live

Your Rights Under McKinney-Vento

- ✓ **Stay in Your School** – Your child can keep going to the school they were in before losing housing (*school of origin*) or attend the school closest to where you are staying.
- ✓ **Enroll Immediately** – Even without paperwork like birth certificates, medical records, or transcripts.
- ✓ **Free Transportation** – To and from the school of origin, if needed.
- ✓ **Preschool Access** – Priority for preschool programs if your child is eligible.
- ✓ **Free Meals & Fee Waivers** – Your child automatically qualifies for free school meals and fee waivers.
- ✓ **Extra Academic Help** – Tutoring or other support if your child needs it.

Your Privacy Matters

- Your housing situation is **private** — schools cannot share this information without your permission (unless required by law).
- Only staff who need to know will have access.
- Students will **never be singled out** or treated differently because of their housing situation.