
Nowhere to Go

McKinney Vento Homeless
Assistance Act 101

What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

- The **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act** is a federal law that seeks to ensure the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.
- It is designed to address the challenges that homeless students face when enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Legal Definition of Homelessness under McKinney Vento

§ Individuals who **lack a fixed, regular, & adequate nighttime residence:**

–**Fixed:** not subject to change, permanent, stationary

–**Regular:** consistent, routine, predictable, normal, standard (i.e. nightly)

–**Adequate:** sufficient to meet physical & psychological needs (running water, electricity, etc.)

§ **Can the student go to the same place (fixed) every night (regular) to sleep in a safe & sufficient space (adequate)?**

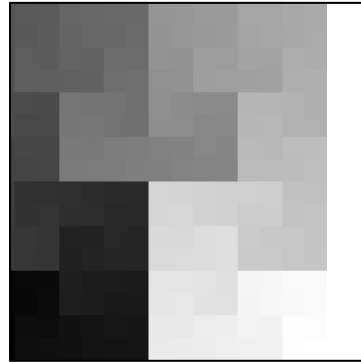
Defining Homelessness

Students are considered homeless when they are:

- Doubled Up - temporarily sharing the housing of friends or relatives due to the loss of housing and economic hardship;
- Living in motels, hotels, due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
- Sheltered - living in temporary shelters such as domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, or transitional housing programs
- Unsheltered and living in abandoned buildings, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, vehicles, tents in a backyard, etc or abandoned in a hospital.

Identifying Homelessness under McKinney Vento

**Determination must be made on a case-by case basis.
Identification is seldom a matter of black and white.**



Some Causes of Homelessness...

- Lack of affordable housing
- Eviction
- Running Away
- Low income, unemployment, underemployment, lack of skills
- Health and Mental Health Problems
- Domestic Abuse, Violence, Family Dysfunction
- Lack of Safe and Stable Living Environment
- Physical/Sexual Abuse by a Parent or a Guardian
- Parent or Guardian Alcohol and/or Drug Addiction
- Natural Disasters

Common Signs of Homelessness



Transportation & Attendance Problems

- Erratic attendance or tardiness
- Numerous absences
- Inability to contact parents
- Avoid Participation in School Activities

Lack of Continuity in Education

- Enrollment at many different schools
- Lack of records needed at enrollment (birth certificate, immunization records, etc.)
- Gaps in Skills development

Physical

- Chronic Hunger
- Fatigue, sleeping in class
- Wearing the same clothing for several days
- Medical, dental needs
- Frequent Illnesses

Social/Emotional

- Shyness or withdrawn
- Fear of abandonment
- Anxiety

Not Prepared for class

- Lack of basic school supplies
- Incomplete/missing homework
- Concern for safety of belongings

Rights of Homeless Children and Youth



- **School stability, immediate enrollment, & access**
 - Students have a right to remain at their school pending a determination of best interest hearing.
 - Transportation to and from their school of origin
 - Enrollment documents (immunizations, transcripts, etc.) are not required, but help will be provided to obtain them.
- **Supports for academic success**
 - Free lunch, school supplies, and educational materials
 - Referrals to community agencies
 - Help with program costs and school fees
 - Priority Seating in afterschool programs
- **Child-centered decision** making on case-by-case basis

Important Reminders

DO

- Be aware of the many reasons for homelessness
- Collaborate with parents and families
- Be mindful of words, tone, and actions; be respectful
- Provide appropriate support and advocacy



DON'T

- Judge or discriminate
- Violate FERPA
- Hold children accountable for conditions beyond their control
- Assume families will immediately share sensitive information

Next Steps:

1. Please sign in to your @unicoischools.com account
2. Click [here](#) or copy and paste the link below into your web browser

<https://forms.gle/ozUpZckDzR1kgbrT7>

3. Submit the completed quiz by August 31, 2023 for documentation of training.