

# ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE, APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

Including children and youth with:

- **Uncertain housing**
- **A temporary address**
- **No permanent physical address**

The federal McKinney-Vento Act guarantees school enrollment for anyone who, due to a lack of housing, does not have a **fixed**, **regular**, and **adequate** night time residence. Such children and youth may live:

- In an emergency shelter or transitional housing,
- In a motel, hotel, or campground due to the lack of an adequate alternative,
- In a car, park, public place, bus or train station, or abandoned building,
- Doubled up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship,
- In these conditions and be a migratory child or youth, or
- In these conditions and be a youth not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Children and youth living in these settings may meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and have additional educational rights.

Where can a child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate residence attend school?

- The school the child or youth attended before becoming homeless or was last enrolled (school of origin), or
- The school in the attendance area where the child or youth is currently living

How can delays be avoided when enrolling a student experiencing homelessness in school?

- Enroll the student immediately.
- Contact the previous school and ask that the records be sent electronically or shared over the phone.
- Contact the principal, school counselor, or local homeless education liaison with any concerns.
- Contact the local homeless education liaison to support unaccompanied youth when enrolling in school.

**Where can I get help?**

**Local Homeless Education Liaison**

MARY HODGES  
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