McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Definition of McKinney-Vento Act:

42 USC § 11431 - STATEMENT OF POLICY:

(1) Each State educational agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

(2) In any State that has a compulsory residency requirement as a component of the State's compulsory school attendance laws or other laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths, the STate will review and undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths.

(3) Homelessness alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment

(4) Homeless children and youths shall have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

Eligibility under McKinney-Vento:

The federal law covers children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Living situations that may qualify include, but are not limited to:

- Sharing the housing of others persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional housing
- Living in a public or private place not designed 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
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

Parent Rights & Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Rights:

Homeless students have the right to:

- Enroll immediately, even if they do not currently have paperwork normally required for enrollment
- Attends either the local attendance area school or the school of origin, with the placement decision based on the student's best interest
- Remain in the school of origin for the duration of the homelessness or until the end of the school year in which the student becomes permanently housed
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin
- Receive educational services, such as free school meals, Title I services, and participate in gifted and talented programs, vocational education, alternative education, and any other services comparable to what housed students receive
- Not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless

NCHE Parent Right Brochure:

English
Spanish

Parent Educational Rights Posters:

English & Spanish

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth:

In addition to the provisions that apply to all homeless students, the McKinney-Vento Act includes the following provisions specifically for unaccompanied homeless youth:

- Unaccompaniedhomelessyouthshallbeimmediatelyenrolledwithoutproofof guardianship
- During a dispute over school selection or enrollment, unaccompanied homeless youth shall receive a written statement explaining the school's decision, the youth's right to appeal the decision, and a referral to the local liaison

Youth Educational Rights

Local liaisons shall assist unaccompanied homeless youth in:

- Selectingaschoolofattendanceandenrollinginschool
- Requestingtransportationtoandfromtheschooloforigin
- Enrollinginschoolimmediatelywhiledisputesareresolved

Requesting Services

Services provided include immediate enrollment, school selection promoting stability, nutrition and academic support. McKinney-Vento services are provided for the duration of the school year and do not automatically renew. The Homeless Liaison at Envision Science Academy will assess families for eligibility and coordinate services. To obtain more information about the services provided and how to access these services, please contact the Homeless Liaison at ESA.

Envision Science Academy's McKinney-Vento Liaison:

Kelly Gentry
School Counselor (upper school grades 5-8)
kgentry@envisionscienceacademy.com
919-435-4002 ext. 8516

Additional McKinney-Vento Information and Homeless Data:

Please visit the links below to learn more about homelessness across North Carolina.

NC Homeless Education Program

- About NCHEP
- Lisa Phillips, State Coordinator- lphillip@serve.org (336)-543-4285

National Center for Homeless Education

- National Homeless Data -
North Carolina Data