

The Law According to McKinney-Vento

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What is McKinney-Vento?

- The McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth.
- Federal funding is dispersed to states to support programs that serve homeless students.



How McKinney-Vento began

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987
 - Passed by the 100th United States Congress
 - Signed into law by President Reagan on July 22, 1987 and has been reauthorized throughout the years



What does “homeless” mean?

- Homeless children are “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”.
 - Sharing housing due to economic hardship or lack of housing
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transition shelters
 - Primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation
 - Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc...



What can cause homelessness?

- Lack of housing/lack of affordable housing
- Poverty
- Health problems
- Domestic violence within families
- Natural disasters
- Abuse/neglect/family dysfunction



Problems for students who are experiencing homelessness

- Lack of supplies, clothing, hygiene items
- Lack of enrollment requirements such as paperwork
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of stability due to high mobility
- Fatigue, hunger, health problems, trauma, depression, anxiety
- Lack of awareness of homeless students and their needs/Under-identification of our homeless students



Who is homeless?

Who can we help?

- Children lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
 - Fixed – Stationary...permanent...not subject to change
 - Regular – Used on a predictable, routine, consistent nightly basis
 - Adequate – Meets physical and psychological needs



Who is homeless?

Who can we help?

- Sharing housing with others for various reasons
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to inadequate alternative living conditions
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in a place (public or private) not designed for human living
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc...
- This also includes migratory students living in these situations.
- Finally, this includes children or youth who are not in physical custody of a parent or guardian and meet the McKinney-Vento criteria.



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