DESERT SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

47-950 Dune Palms Road · La Quinta, California 92253 · (760) 777-4200 · FAX: (760) 771-8505

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Ana M. Conover, Donald B. Griffith, Wendy Jonathan, Tricia Pearce, Linda Porras
SUPERINTENDENT: Scott L. Bailey

Desert Sands Unified School District

Guide to Assist in McKinney-Vento Identification

The following questions are designed to help gather information relevant for determining whether or not a student qualifies for assistance under the McKinney-Vento Act. Please remember these questions are simply guidelines to help guide your discussion with families about housing arrangements. You do not need to ask all questions and the list of questions is not exhaustive. Should you need clarification as to how better identify students eligible for McKinney-Vento, please contact the DSUSD Homeless Liaison at 760-771-8612.

Fixed: *A resident that is stationary, permanent and not subject to change.*

1. Where were you living right before this place?
2. Is this a permanent situation or just temporary?
3. Are you looking for another place to live?
4. Do you plan to move out soon?
5. Did you and your friend/relatives decide to move in together and share expenses?
6. Are all families that live in the home contributing equally for cost of rent, utilities, etc.?
7. Could your friends/relatives ask you to leave if they want to?
8. Where would you go if you couldn't stay where you are?
9. Is your family on a waitlist for shelter services?

Regular Locations: *A residence that is used on a regular, nightly basis. It is consistent*

1. Do you stay in the same place every night?
2. Do you have a key to the place where you are living?
3. Do you move around a lot?
4. How long have you been at that place? How long do you plan to stay?
5. How long did you live in your place?

Adequate: A residence that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment. The residence has adequate privacy, space, security, lighting, and ventilations, etc.

1. How many people are living the home? How many bedrooms/bathrooms does it have?
2. Are you and your children sharing a room? How many people are staying in one room?
3. Are you and your children sleeping in a private area like a bedroom, or a public area like a dining room?
4. Does the home have heat/electricity/running water?
5. In what condition is the home? Is it safe?
6. Can you come and go as you please?

Identifying Homeless Students in Double-up Situations

(Adapted from National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth)

How to tell whether a family is McKinney-Vento eligible under double-up

- **Get the facts:** What is the family or youth's situation?
  - Use the completed PR card to gather initial information regarding the family's living situation.
  - Have a follow-up conversation with the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth.
- **Analyze the facts:** Is the student eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act?
  - To be eligible, the student must meet the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homeless.

Double-Up is defined as "Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship."

- Sharing the housing of other persons
  - Did the student move into the home as an urgent measure to avoid being on the street?
  - Is the situation temporary?
    If yes to these questions, student is McKinney-Vento eligible
- Loss of housing
  - An eviction
  - Had to leave due to domestic violence, infestations, inadequate physical environment (no utilities).
  - Destruction of home (house fire, flood)
    If yes to these questions-McKinney-Vento eligible
- Economic Hardship
  - The way shared housing arrangement came about and its intention is very significant.
  - Limited resources forced families to leave their personal housing to share housing due to inability pay.
  - Events such as an accident, illness, loss of employment or benefits forced families to share housing temporarily.
    If yes to these questions McKinney-Vento eligible

NOTE: A long-term, cooperative living arrangement among family or friends should not be considered a homeless situation even if the parties live together to save money or can not afford to live on their own.

See the DSUSD Doubled-Up and/or Unaccompanied Youth for additional guidance.