

**The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program**  
**Title X, Part C, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education**

The McKinney-Vento Program addresses the problems that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth.

Homeless children and youth should have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State Student Academic Achievement Standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth.

The McKinney-Vento Program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431 et seq.), (McKinney-Vento Act). The program was originally authorized in 1987 and, most recently, reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The term “homeless children and youth” refers to individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up);
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative, adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Awaiting foster care placement;
- Residing in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily uses 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;
- Living in any circumstances described above that allow them to be defined as “migratory.”

**WSD Liaison for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program:**

WSD has designated its Executive Director to serve as its liaison in all cases

related to the McKinney-Vento Act. The liaison is charged with several responsibilities including the following:

- Identifying homeless children and youth;
- Ensuring that children and youth experiencing homelessness enroll in and have a full and fair opportunity to success in school;
- Ensuring that families, children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible;
- Inform parents and guardians of the educational and related opportunities available to their children;
- Provide parents with meaningful opportunities to participate in that education;
- Disseminate public notice of educational rights;
- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated;
- Inform families and youth about transportation services and assist them in accessing transportation.

Please contact us at [wsdpc.org/contact](https://wsdpc.org/contact) if you wish to discuss or report educational issues related to the homelessness of a child or youth.