

# McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento) is a federal law that protects the educational rights of homeless students to eliminate barriers to the enrollment, retention, and success of homeless students; and to ensure they receive equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as is provided other students.

For more information: [U.S. Department of Education - Homeless Youth](#)

## **Who is Homeless?**

According to McKinney-Vento, homeless children and youth include individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes the following situations:

- Sharing the housing of others (known as doubling up) due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Living in a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation;
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

McKinney-Vento also recognizes unaccompanied youth who are homeless. According to the act, an unaccompanied youth is a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

## **Student Rights Under McKinney-Vento**

McKinney-Vento assures every student experiencing homelessness has the right to:

- Immediate enrollment, even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, or proof of residency;
- Remain in the school of origin, if in the student's best interest;
- Receive transportation to/from the school of origin; and
- Receive services comparable to services offered to other students in the District.

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**Need homeless assistance or know someone else who does?**

The homeless coordinator plays a vital role in ensuring that children and youth experiencing homelessness enroll and succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act requires that every school district appoint a homeless coordinator who serves as the link between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and social service providers. The homeless coordinator is responsible for:

- Assisting homeless children and youth with enrolling and accessing school services
- Obtaining immunization or medical records
- Coordinating transportation services
- Informing parents, school personnel of the rights of homeless children and youth
- Collaborating and coordinating with Missouri's State homeless coordinator, the community and other school personnel
- Handling disputes over enrollment, school placement and transportation
- Ensuring that homeless children and youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of any disputes

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To seek assistance under the McKinney-Vento Act, or to file a complaint regarding the placement or education of a homeless student, please contact:

The Fredericktown R-1 Homeless Liaison:

Mr. Craig Gibbs

Fredericktown High School

805 East Highway 72

Fredericktown, MO 63645

(573) 783-3628 / [craig.gibbs@fpsk12.org](mailto:craig.gibbs@fpsk12.org)

Board of Education Policy IGBCA, Programs for Homeless Students, provides additional information regarding the District's programs for students experiencing homelessness.