

Supporting Students in Temporary Housing:



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Presented By: NYS TEACHS

Thursday, April 10, 2025

9:30am –11:00am



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Center for Homeless Students



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Webinar Format



- Today's session will be recorded.



- Your microphone will be automatically muted.



- Your camera will be automatically disabled.



- The in-webinar chat will allow you to communicate with the panelists and the host only.



Housekeeping



- We will launch poll questions periodically throughout the session and ask that you respond to questions in the chat.
- We won't be able to answer questions about specific situations in the chat, but we welcome you to call the Help Line to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Help Line is open 24 hours a day. Specialists are available from 9:00am–5:00pm. If you leave a message, you will be called back by the next business day.
- Following today's webinar, today's recorded session, attachments, and Q&As will be posted/accessible online.



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Who is in the Room?

Are you a...

- New McKinney-Vento Liaison (1st Year)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (2-4 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (5 – 9 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (10 + years)
- Other School/District Staff
- BOCES Staff



Which region are you from?

- * Western
- * Finger Lakes
- * Central
- * Southern Tier
- * Mohawk Valley
- * Capital
- * Hudson Valley
- * New York City
- * Long Island
- * North Country

Session Outcomes



By the end of today's webinar, participants will be able to:

- Define homelessness and possible causes.
- Describe the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Implement the McKinney-Vento Act by providing benefits and protections to families and students experiencing temporary housing.

Agenda



Welcome! Who's in the Room?



Causes/Impact of Homelessness



McKinney-Vento Homeless Act



Key Provisions of the MV Act



Summary, Resources and Survey



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Children's Perspectives on Living in Temporary Housing

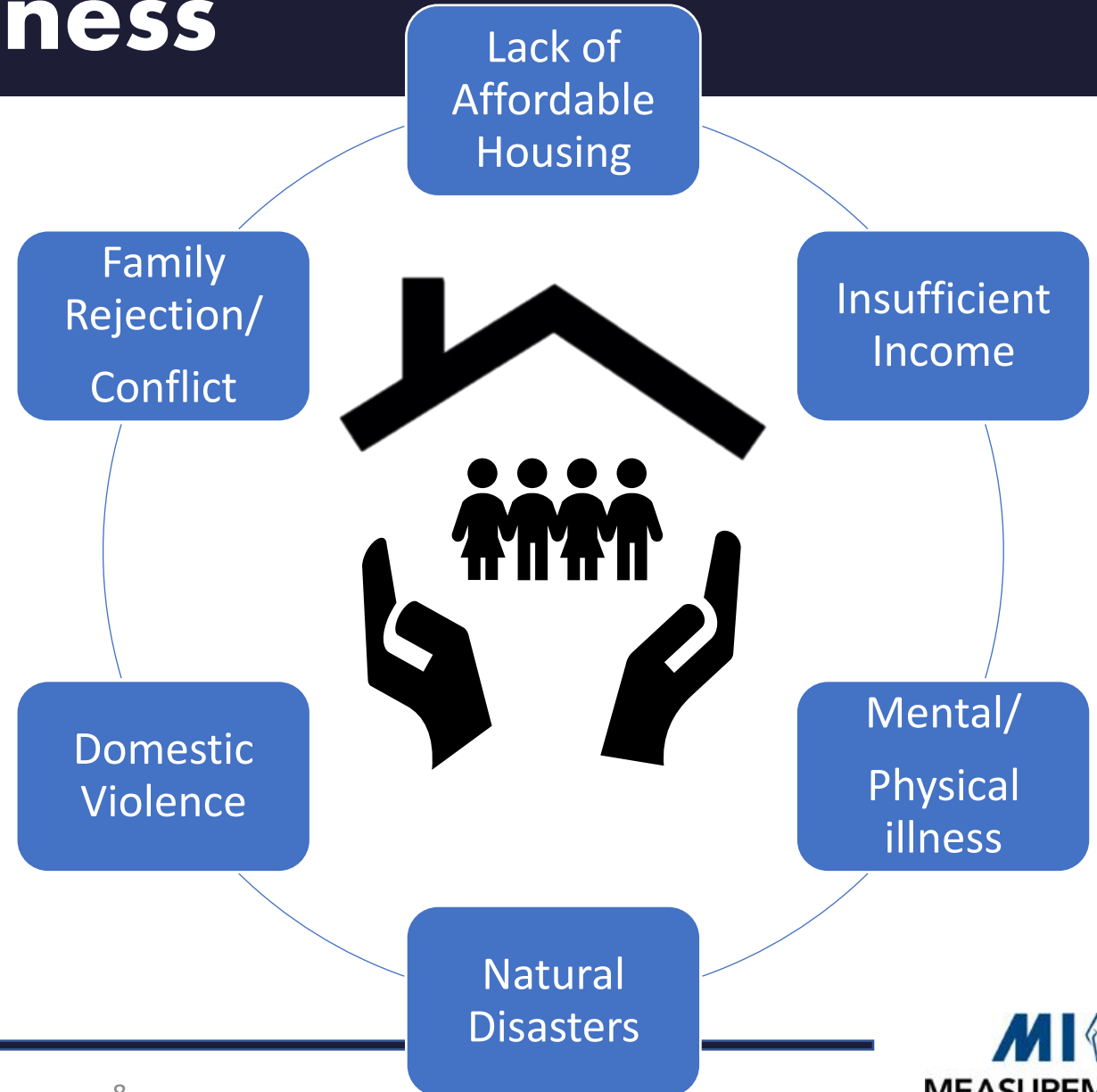
As you watch the video, think about what thoughts emerge as you hear the voices of children living in a shelter.

Please put your answers in the chat. 😊



Causes of Homelessness

What are the potential causes of homelessness?



Educational Barriers



Lack of **basic** resources like a safe and stable place to live, food, and clothing



Difficulty **accessing** school, immunization records, other documentation necessary for school enrollment, and school supplies



Challenges finding transportation to enroll with the school registration office, or to attend school daily



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McKinney-Vento Act



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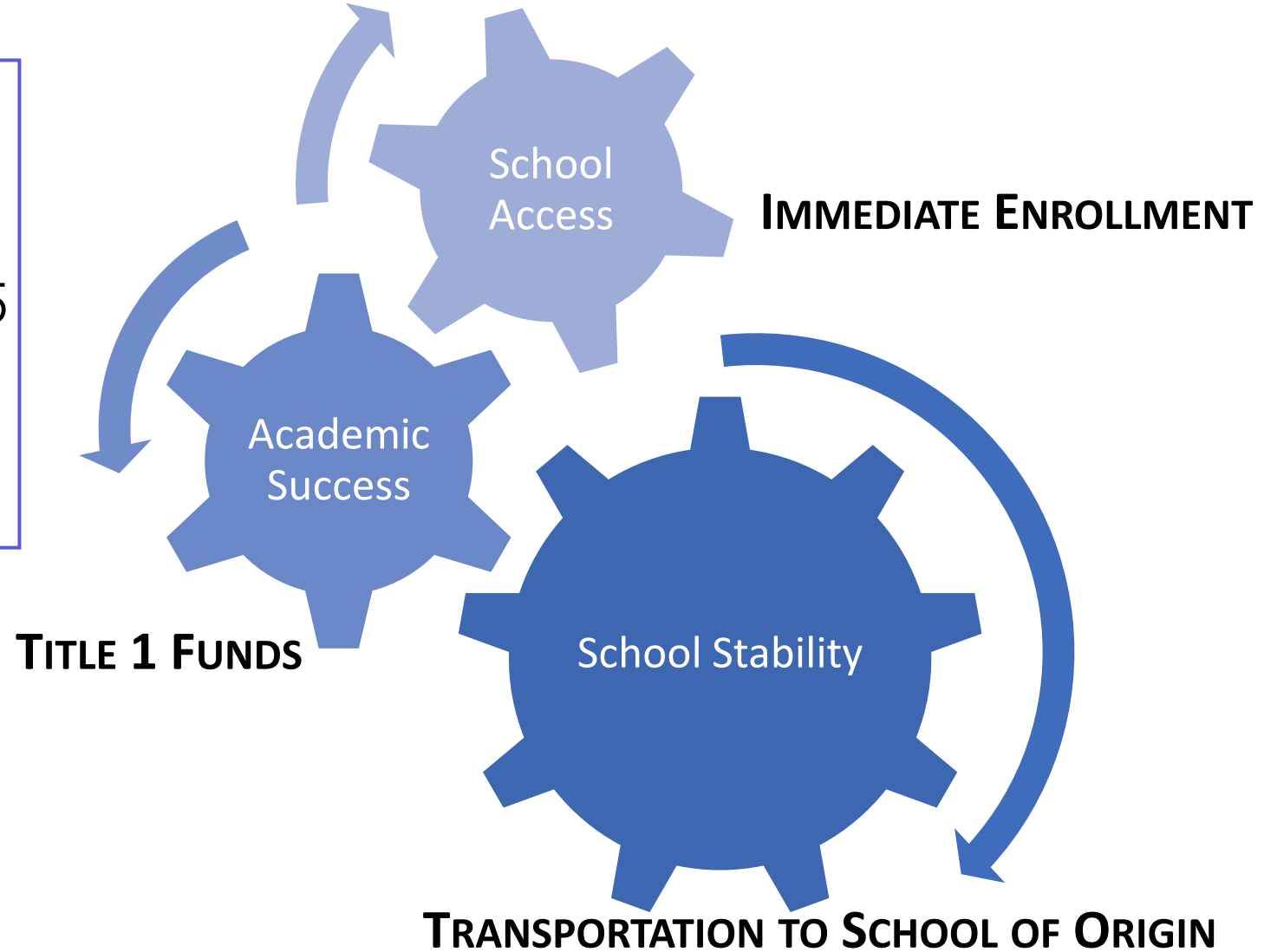
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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Federal law established in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



McKinney-Vento Students' Rights

- ✓ Free appropriate education
- ✓ Immediate enrollment
- ✓ Attend classes
- ✓ Receive transportation
- ✓ Receive educational services



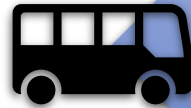
Receive a free, appropriate public education



Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment, or having missed the application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness



Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents



Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested by the parent or guardian, or by the local liaison on behalf of an unaccompanied youth



Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's need



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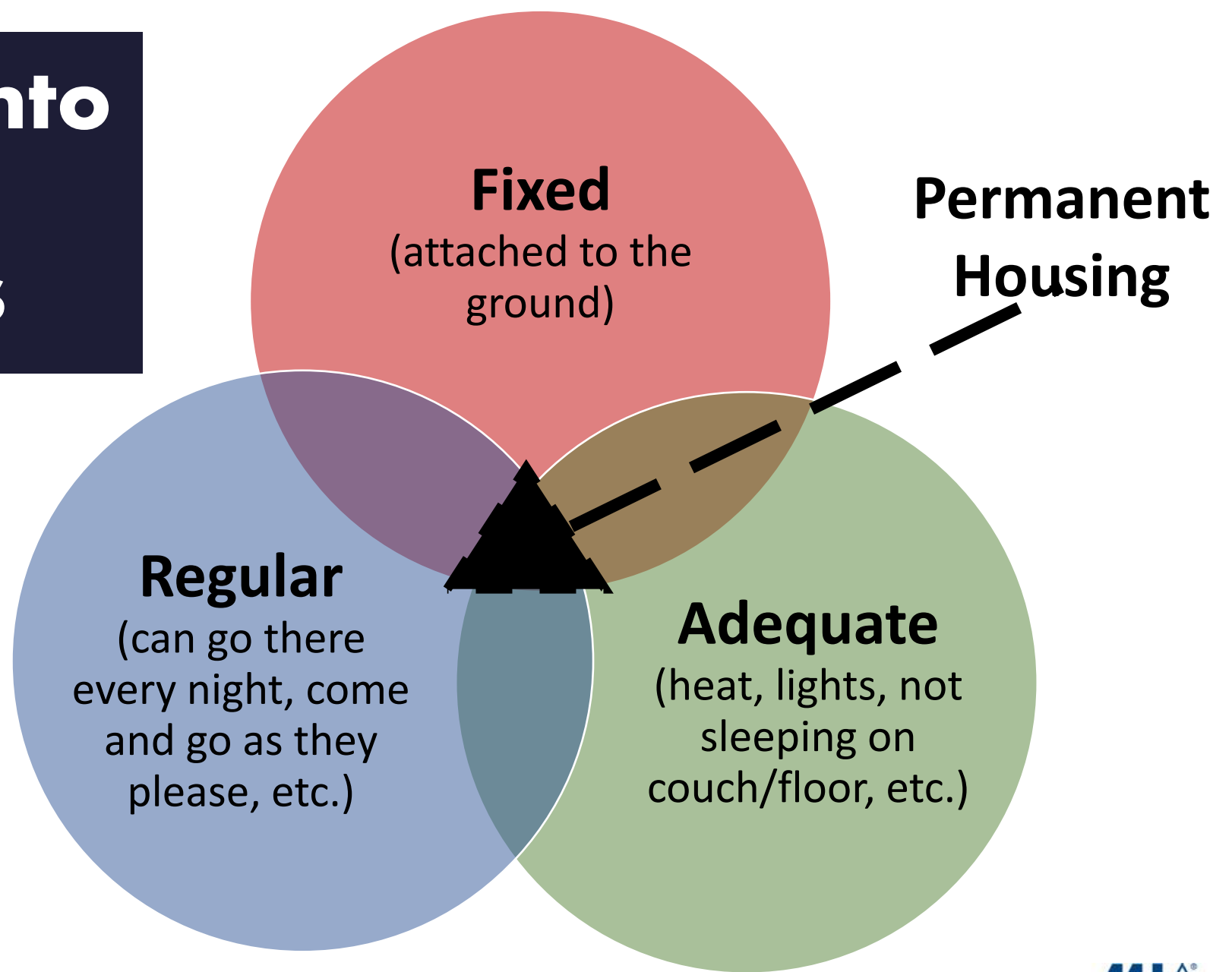
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McKinney-Vento Act: Definition of Homeless



McKinney-Vento Act Defines Homelessness

The term “homeless child or youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate primary nighttime residence.



Who is Covered Under McKinney-Vento?

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those:

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping;
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.;
- Migratory children living in circumstances described above;
- Unaccompanied youth living in circumstances described above.

Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 U.S.C. §11434A(2)(B)(i)



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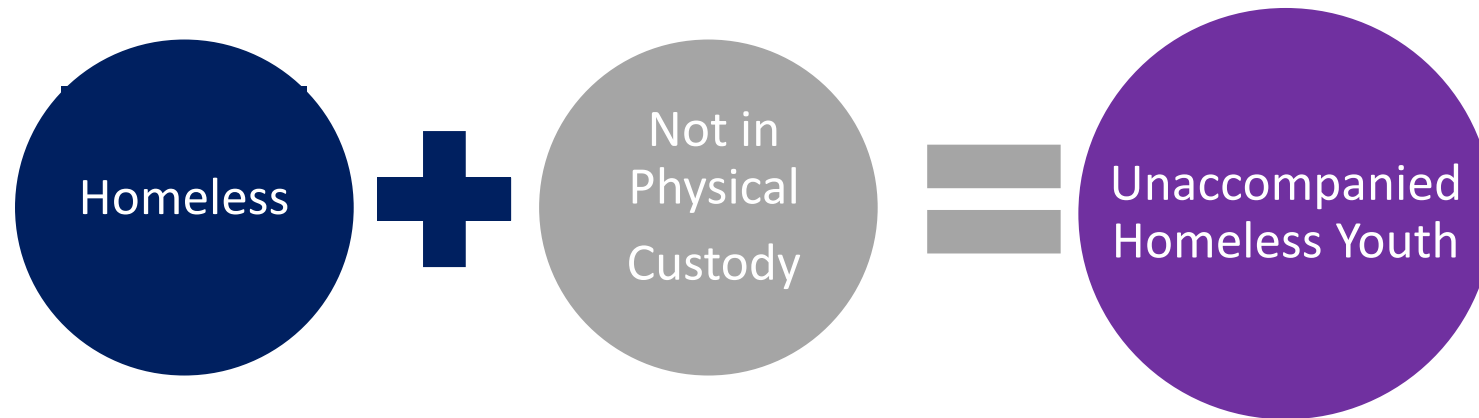


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Definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An unaccompanied youth is a child or youth that is not in the physical custody of/not living with a parent or guardian.

To be eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the youth must also meet the definition of homeless.

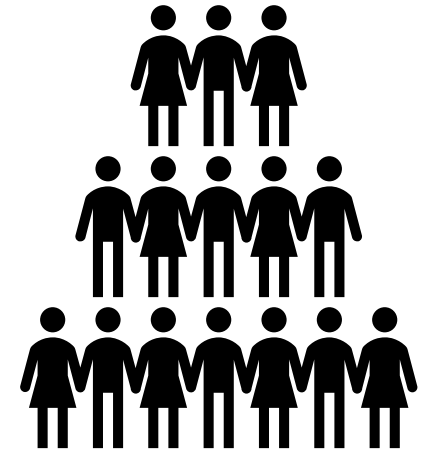


42 U.S.C. §11434a[6]; Education Law §3209[1][a][1][v]; and 8 NYCRR §100.2[x][1][iii][6]

Quick Poll

According to data from 2023-2024, what primary nighttime residence was most utilized by children and youth experiencing homelessness in New York?

- A. Shelters, transitional housing
- B. Doubled up (living with another family)
- C. Unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailers, abandoned buildings)
- D. Hotels/Motels



Scenario #1

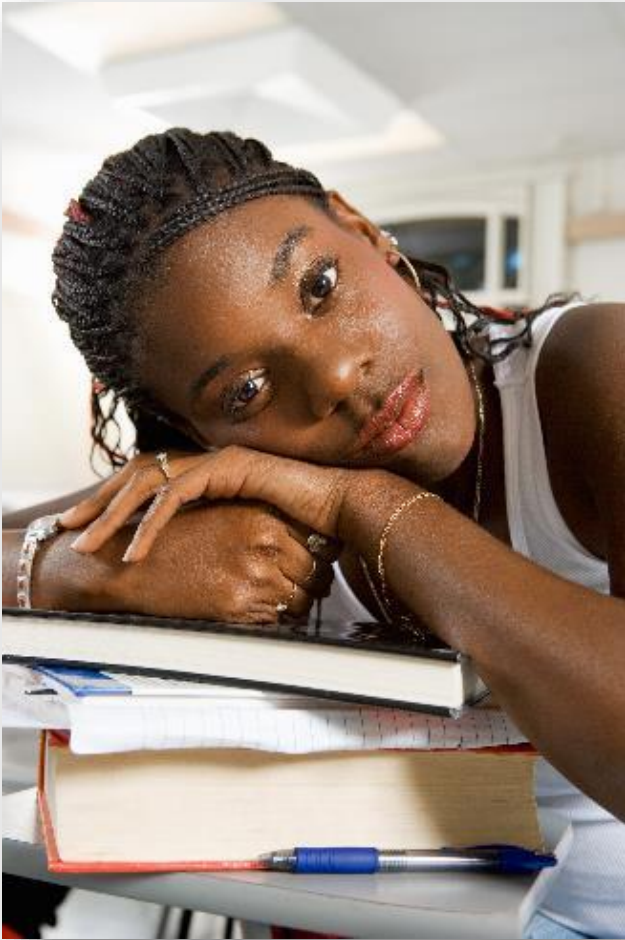
There is a family with two children living in a two-bedroom apartment. The landlord informs them he is selling the building, and they need to leave by the end of the month. They find a two-bedroom apartment in a neighboring school district and sign a lease.

This family's housing is...

- A. Fixed, regular, and adequate
- B. Fixed, regular, but not adequate
- C. Fixed, but not regular or adequate
- D. Not sure



Scenario #2



There is a 15-year-old living with her mother and her boyfriend in a two-bedroom apartment. Due to a conflict in the home, the youth goes to live with her grandmother in her one-bedroom apartment.

This youth's housing is...

- A. Fixed, regular, and adequate
- B. Fixed, regular, but not adequate
- C. Fixed, but not regular or adequate
- D. Not sure



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Scenario #3



Mom is living with two children in a two-bedroom apartment. The landlord evicts the family, and they move in with her parents into their two-bedroom home.

This family's housing situation is...

- A. Fixed, regular and adequate
- B. Fixed, regular, but not adequate
- C. Fixed, but not regular or adequate
- D. Not fixed, regular and adequate.

McKinney-Vento Act: Basic Provisions

- Role of the McKinney-Vento Liaison
- Enrollment
- School Selection
- Transportation
- Dispute Process

McKinney-Vento Act Requires...

The McKinney-Vento Act requires that school districts designate an appropriate staff person, who also may be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local homeless education liaison.

The McKinney-Vento Act requires a point person for families and district staff to assist with the identification and enrollment of students experiencing temporary housing.



42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)

McKinney-Vento Liaison Responsibilities

1. Identification
2. Enrollment
3. Referrals for Early Childhood
4. Referrals for Health, Housing, and Other Needed Services
5. Parent Involvement
6. Posting Public Notices
7. Dispute Resolution
8. Transportation
9. Training for Colleagues
10. Meeting Needs of Unaccompanied Youth

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A); US Department of Education Non Regulatory Guidance, Section F, Questions L-3& Q2; 8NYCRR § 100.2 (x)(7)(iii)(a)

Eligibility Scenario

Mom is living with two children in a two-bedroom apartment. The family loses housing, and they move into grandma's senior housing. The mom goes to register the children in grandma's school district. The District Liaison determines that the children...

- A. Are McKinney-Vento eligible
- B. Not McKinney-Vento eligible
- C. Need proof of residency before enrolling children
- D. Not sure





Identification

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the local liaison is charged with ensuring that homeless children and youth are “identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.”

42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(i)

Student Privacy Rights Under FERPA

- Strategies used by school districts to identify McKinney-Vento students should be grounded in sensitivity and demonstrate a commitment to protecting student confidentiality.
- According to the McKinney-Vento Act, information about the living situation of a child or youth experiencing homelessness is not deemed to be directory information; rather it's considered to be part of a student's education record and must be provided with the applicable confidentiality protections. (42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][G])

FERPA
Family Educational
Rights and Privacy Act

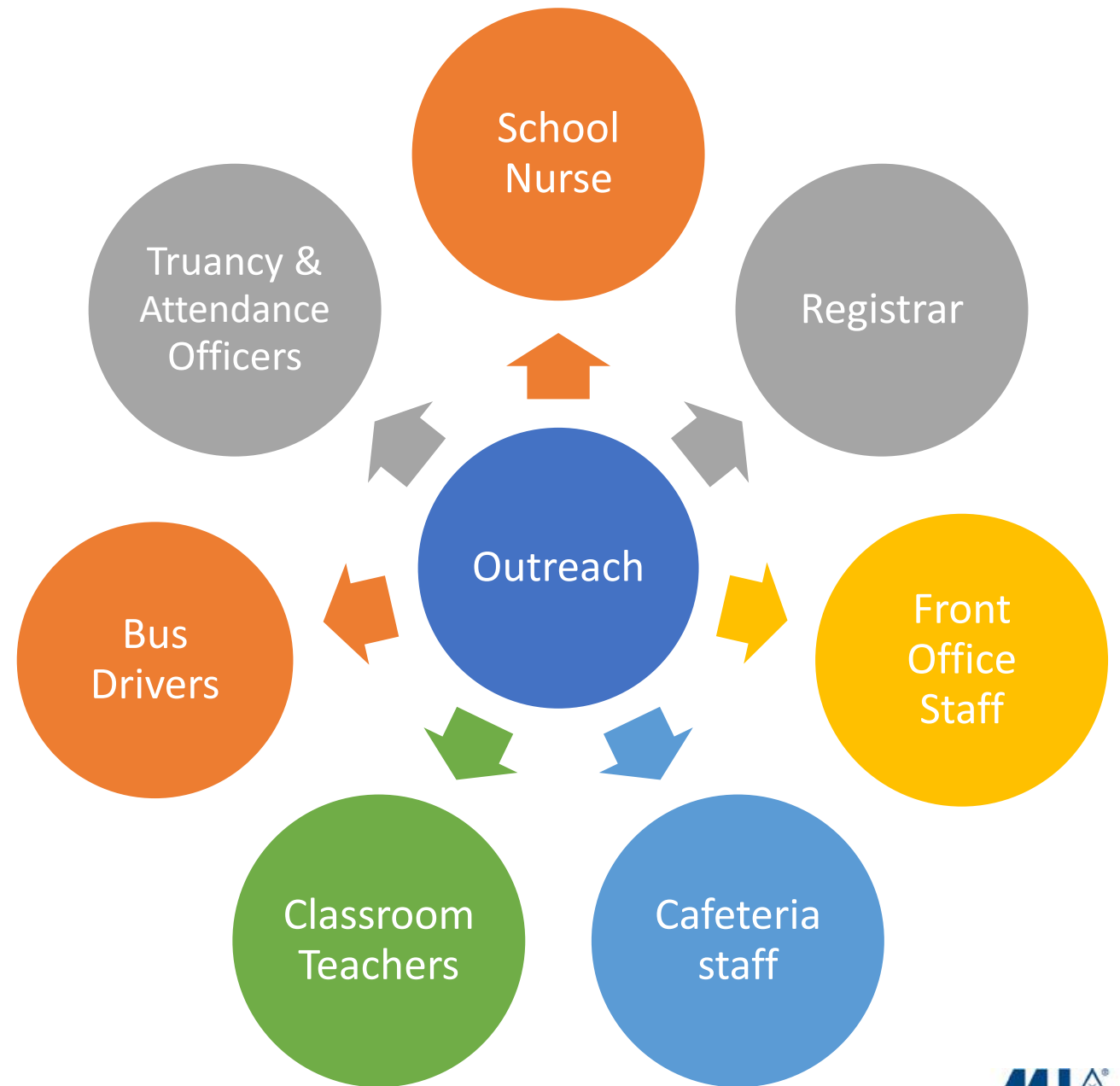


Identification Through Outreach



What outreach efforts have you tried when identifying students living in temporary housing?

Please respond in the chat 😊



Outreach Materials

- Post **outreach materials** in all schools and other community spaces such as motels, campgrounds, libraries, health centers, youth services centers, laundromats, soup kitchens, and parks.
- Brochures are printed in English and Spanish.
- Order **posters** and **brochures**, or view PDFs online [here](https://www.nysteachs.org/order-brochures/brochures-posters), free of charge.
- Posters are available in 10 languages: English, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Urdu.



<https://www.nysteachs.org/order-brochures/brochures-posters>

Housing Questionnaire

- Screening tool is required for all students
- Required at the time of enrollment and change of address
- It is completed by the student's parent, person in parental relation, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, by the student directly.

NOTE TO SCHOOLS/LEAS: Please assist students and families filling out this form. The form should be included at the top page of registration materials that the district shares with families. Do not simply include this form in the registration packet, because if the student qualifies as residing in temporary housing, the student is not required to submit proof of residency and other required documents that may be part of the registration packet.

HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of LEA: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Student: _____

Last First Middle

Gender: Male
 Female
 Non-binary

Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Grade: ____ ID#: _____
(preschool-12) (optional)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

The answer you give below will help the district determine what services you or your child may be able to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to immediate enrollment in school even if they don't have the documents normally needed, such as proof of residency, school records, immunization records, or birth certificate. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act may also be entitled to free transportation and other services.

Where is the student currently living? (Please check one box.)

- In a shelter
- With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up")
- In a hotel/motel
- In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite
- Other temporary living situation (Please describe): _____
- In permanent housing

Print name of Parent, Guardian, or

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or

Immediate Enrollment

- Selected school must immediately enroll, even if the child/youth:
 - Does not have records normally needed for enrollment (Missing records, immunizations, proof of residency, guardianship papers, or a birth certificate)
 - Missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness
 - Owes past fees or fines
- Enrolling school should contact the last school attended for records
- Liaison must assist child/youth in obtaining any necessary immunizations or other required health records



STAC-202: Designation Form

Two purposes:

1. **Official Designation form** (complete for every M-V student enrolled in your district and send a copy to districts listed)
2. **Eligibility form** for homeless tuition reimbursement

If DSS places a child or youth in a temporary housing facility or RHY facility, DSS must complete the designation form within two days and submit it to the designated school district.

Education Law §3209(2)(e); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(3)(i)(b)

The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
STAC/Medicaid Unit
Room EB 25, Education Building
Albany, NY 12234

STAC ID

STAC-202
HOMELESS DESIGNATION
Rev. 11/2022

Designation of School District of Attendance for a Homeless Child

Submitted by: Local Dept of Social Services (DSS) Designated School District of Attendance (PSD)

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

1. NAME OF CHILD LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI. 2. DATE OF BIRTH MO / DAY / YR 3. GENDER FEMALE MALE NON-BINARY

5. Racial/Ethnic Category of Child (See definitions on reverse side of last page.)
American Ind or Alaskan Native Asian or Pacific Isl. Black Hispanic White

7. COMPLETE ADDRESS BEFORE CHILD/FAMILY BECAME HOMELESS

8. COMPLETE ADDRESS OF CURRENT LOCATION DATE CHILD/FAMILY PLACED IN TEMPORARY HOUSING MONTH DAY YEAR

9. DATE DISTRICT OF ATTENDANCE CHOSEN MONTH DAY YEAR

10. DATE PLACED IN PERMANENT HOUSING MONTH DAY YEAR

6. GRADE LEVEL FOR WHICH PLACEMENT IS SOUGHT

7A. NYS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ATTENDANCE BEFORE BECOMING HOMELESS

7B. NYS SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE LAST ENROLLED

8A. NYS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CURRENT LOCATION

9A. NYS DESIGNATED DISTRICT OF ATTENDANCE

One of four school districts may be chosen to provide the education component: the school district of attendance before becoming homeless; the school district where last enrolled; the school district of current location or a school district participating in a Regional Placement Plan. This designation may be changed either prior to the end of the first semester of attendance or within 60 days of making this designation, whichever occurs later.

11. Check the appropriate box if the designated school district of attendance (9A) is different from the district of attendance before becoming homeless (7A) and from the district of current location (8A).
 District participating in a Regional Placement Plan OR District where last enrolled (7B) if it is different from the district where last permanently housed (7A) and the district of current location (8A).

12. NAME OF PARENT OR PERSON IN PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP AREA CODE TELEPHONE NUMBER

13. SIGNATURE OF PERSON IN PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD DATE
IT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO ME THAT THIS CHILD IS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS AND IS THEREFORE ELIGIBLE FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. THE CHILD HAS BEEN ADVISED OF HIS/HER RIGHT TO DESIGNATE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ATTENDANCE.

14. PRINT NAME OF LOCAL DSS OR SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE TITLE

15. SIGNATURE OF LOCAL DSS OR SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE DATE

16. PLACEMENT COUNTY Local DSS use only AREA CODE TELEPHONE NUMBER



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School Selection

Local education agencies (LEAs or school districts) must “presume that keeping homeless children and youth in the school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, to the extent feasible, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth) the youth;”

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)(i), 2001

School Selection: School of Origin

School districts **must keep children and youth experiencing homelessness in the school of origin**, to the extent feasible, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth, against the youth's wishes) (42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][B][i]).

- School of origin is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled (42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][G]).
- Students can continue attending their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they become permanently housed (42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][A][i][II]).
- If a student becomes homeless in between academic years, he or she can continue attending the school of origin for the following school year (42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][A][i][I]).



McKinney- Vento Act: School Selection

Parents, guardians, or unaccompanied youth (the designator) in temporary housing may have choices for school enrollment.

They can choose:

- The school attended or were entitled to attend when circumstances arose which caused the child or youth to become homeless;
- The school last enrolled, even if the student was temporarily housed during that time; or
- The local school where the student is currently temporarily housed.

N.Y. Education Law § 3209(1)(c)

Best Interest Determination

In determining what is in the best interest of the child or youth, the local educational agency (LEA) shall –

- Keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian;
- Provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, to the homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian, if the local educational agency sends such child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian;
- Ensure that the homeless liaison assists the **unaccompanied homeless youth** in placement or enrollment decisions and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)



Transportation

The McKinney-Vento Act states that “(iii) The State and the local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin.”

42 USC 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii).

McKinney-Vento Act & N.Y. Education Law § 3209: Transportation



Students experiencing homelessness, including preschoolers, are entitled to transportation to the school of origin.



Students who move into permanent housing are entitled to transportation throughout the remainder of the school year, and an additional year, if it is the child's terminal grade in the school.



Students who enroll locally are entitled to transportation comparable to that which their permanently housed peers receive, and the elimination of barriers to enroll and attend school.



42 USC §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii), 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II); Education Law § 3209(1), 3209(2)(c), 3209(2)(d), 3209(4)(i); 8 NYCRR §§100.2(x)(2), 100.2(x)(6)(iv); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-5.



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McKinney-Vento Act and N.Y. Education Law 3209

Continued transportation to the same school for the rest of the academic year when the student moves into permanent housing, even if the new housing is located outside of the school district

Transportation to extracurricular activities if the lack of transportation would be a barrier to the student participating

The school district where the student is enrolled is responsible for transportation

School Selection for Preschoolers



1. The school that a child attended when permanently housed.



2. The school where the child was last enrolled.



3. The child's new local publicly-funded preschool.

N.Y. Education Law § 3209(1)(i)

Let's Meet Hana



Hana is a 9th grader attending school in a Long Island School District. Due to the sudden passing of her mother, she is placed by CPS with her aunt in a neighboring school district. She comes to the Registrar Office and wants to enroll in school. They call the District Liaison to speak with Hana to assist her.

Quick Poll

1. Can Hana remain enrolled in the school she is currently attending?

A. Yes **B.** No **C.** Not Sure

2. Does Hana's aunt need to show proof of guardianship for Hana to maintain enrollment?

A. Yes **B.** No **C.** Not Sure

3. Hana's aunt must drive her to school since she is residing out of the school district.

A. True **B.** False **C.** Not Sure





Dispute Process

The McKinney-Vento **dispute resolution process** is required to resolve any dispute that arises over eligibility, school selection, enrollment in a school, or transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act before a district interrupts services for the student.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(C) & 11432(g)(3)(E); U.S. DOE Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions K-1, K-2;
N.Y. Education Law § 3209(5); 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 100.2(x)(7)(ii)

Dispute Resolution Process

- Parents or unaccompanied youth can file a 310 Appeal with the New York State Commissioner if there is a disagreement with a district's decision about eligibility, enrollment, school selection, or transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act.
 - The child or youth must be immediately enrolled in their desired school and can maintain enrollment, transportation, and other services provided to students in the desired school district pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals.
 - The Commissioner issues a decision on the appeal.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(C) & 11432(g)(3)(E); U.S. DOE Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions K-1, K-2; N.Y. Education Law § 3209(5); 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 100.2(x)(7)(ii)

Dispute Resolution Process

Immediately enroll the student in the school requested by the family or youth and provide transportation, if requested

Provide the parent or youth a **written notice** of district's determination

Continue enrollment and transportation until all appeals are final

Assist the parent or youth with completing all the appeal paperwork



Check for Understanding



Check for Understanding #1

How long can a student be designated as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

- A.** One school year
- B.** As long as the liaison determines the student is eligible
- C.** As long as the student's housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate
- D.** Until the student completes a terminal grade



Check for Understanding #2

A family that was permanently housed in your district is now in temporary housing in a neighboring district. They would like to enroll their 4-year-old-child in your district-sponsored preschool. If the child did not previously attend preschool in your district, are they eligible to enroll there and receive transportation?

- A.** Yes, the child may be enrolled but the parent is responsible for transportation.
- B.** Yes, the child may be enrolled, and the district is responsible for providing transportation.
- C.** No, the child must live in district to attend.
- D.** Not sure



Check for Understanding #3

A family with two children is living in a shelter and attending school in Schenectady. The family finds permanent housing in Albany. The family consults with the district liaison on school selection. What should the liaison say to advise the family?

- A.** Transfer to the local school in Albany.
- B.** Maintain enrollment in the current school.
- C.** Ask the family where they would like the children to attend.
- D.** Not sure



Summary

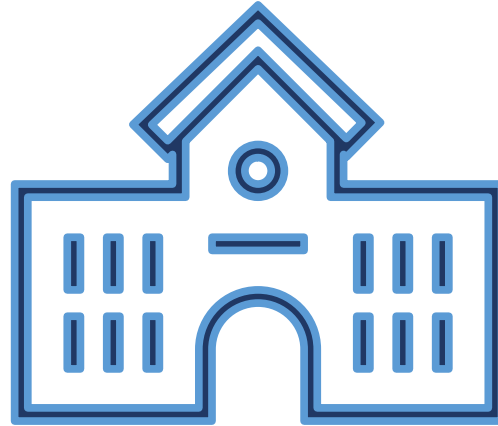


LEA's Role to Remove Barriers For...



Enrolling

Enroll in school immediately even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.



Attending

Continue attending the school of origin and receive transportation to and from school.



Succeeding

Equal access to the same free, appropriate public education and related services needed to meet State academic standards



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Role of the McKinney-Vento Liaison



IDENTIFICATION

- Identify students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Continue eligibility for McKinney-Vento benefits for an unspecified length of time if housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate.



ENROLLMENT

- Assist students with immediate enrollment if admission requirements are met and there are seats available in the charter school.



SUPPORT

- Provide access to resources: health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.
- Ensure transportation to and from school of origin.

Key Ideas

What are some key ideas to remember about the **McKinney-Vento Act**?



Please respond
in the chat 😊

Resources

More
Information



[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)

[Housing Questionnaire](#)

[Sample LEA Policy on the Education of Students in Temporary Housing](#)

[Identifying Children and Youth in Homeless Situations](#)

[Enrolling Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in School](#)

[NCHE Brief on School Selection](#)



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Technical and Educational Assistance Center

- **Help Line** (800-388-2014)
- **Website** (<https://nysteachs.org>)
- **Web-Based Trainings**
- **Outreach Materials**
- **Tales from the Field**



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Find us on Facebook: **NYS Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students**

Next Webinar:

End of Year Planning for McKinney-Vento Liaisons

Thursday, April 24, 2025

9:30am–11:00am



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