

Supporting Students in Temporary Housing:



Back to School with McKinney-Vento

We will begin shortly! Enjoy our jazz!



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The New York State Technical and Educational
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

Presented by: NYS-TEACHS

Thursday, August 28, 2025

9:30am-10:30am



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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 you to 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, the recorded session, attachments, and Q&As will be posted/accessible.

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 Liaison



Which region are you from?

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

Session Outcomes



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

Identify the rights of students experiencing temporary housing and the LEA's responsibility to ensure those rights.

Describe the criteria for a student to be eligible for benefits as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Provide the benefits of immediate enrollment and transportation to eligible students.

Today's Agenda



Welcome! Who is in the Room?



Meet the NYS-TEACHS Team



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Benefits for Students in Temporary Housing



Immediate Enrollment and Transportation



Summary, Resources and Survey



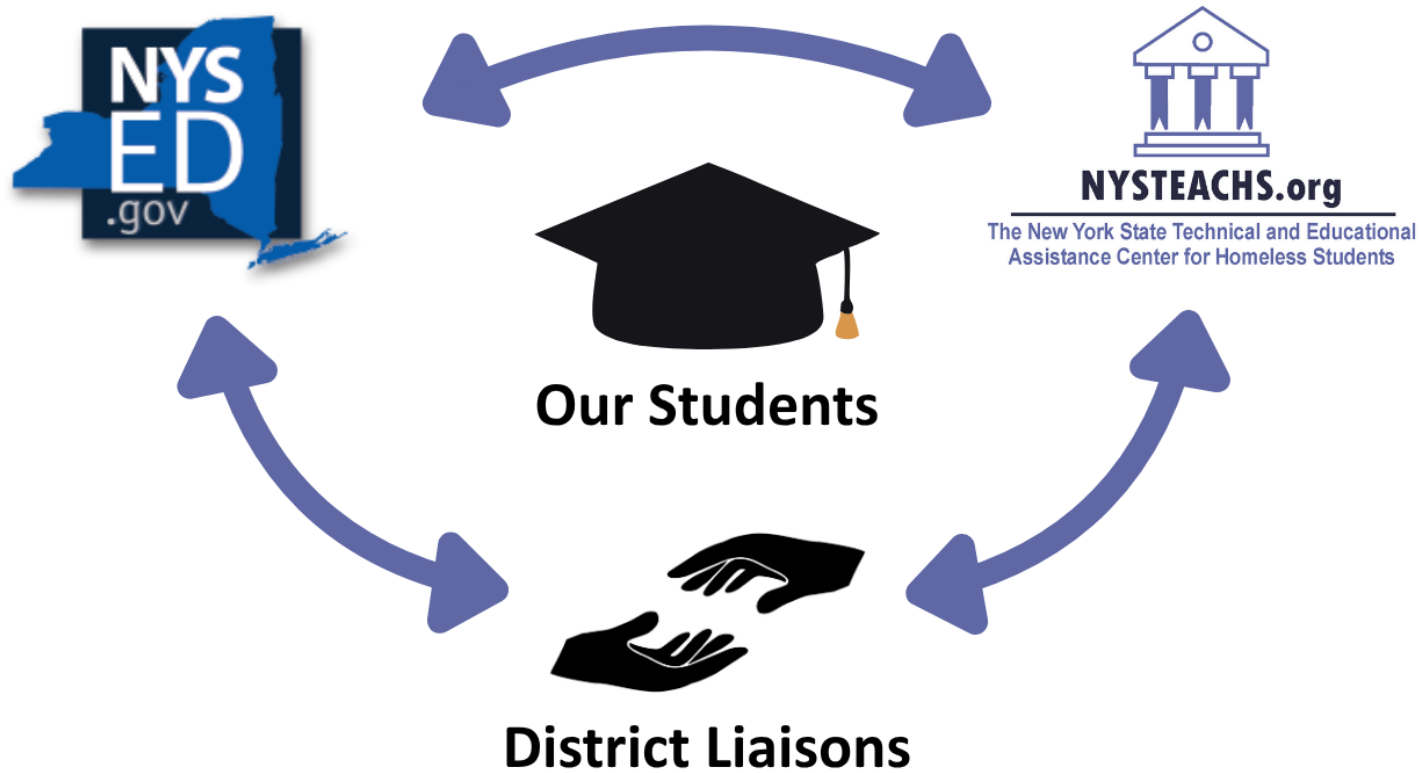
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The Power of Collaboration



NYS-TEACHS Team



Rita Danis
Director, NYS-
TEACHS



Wendy Cleary
Professional Learning
Specialist



**Dan
Martinelli**
Professional
Learning
Specialist



Erin Luchterhand
Professional Learning
Specialist

Student Voices: Living in Temporary Housing

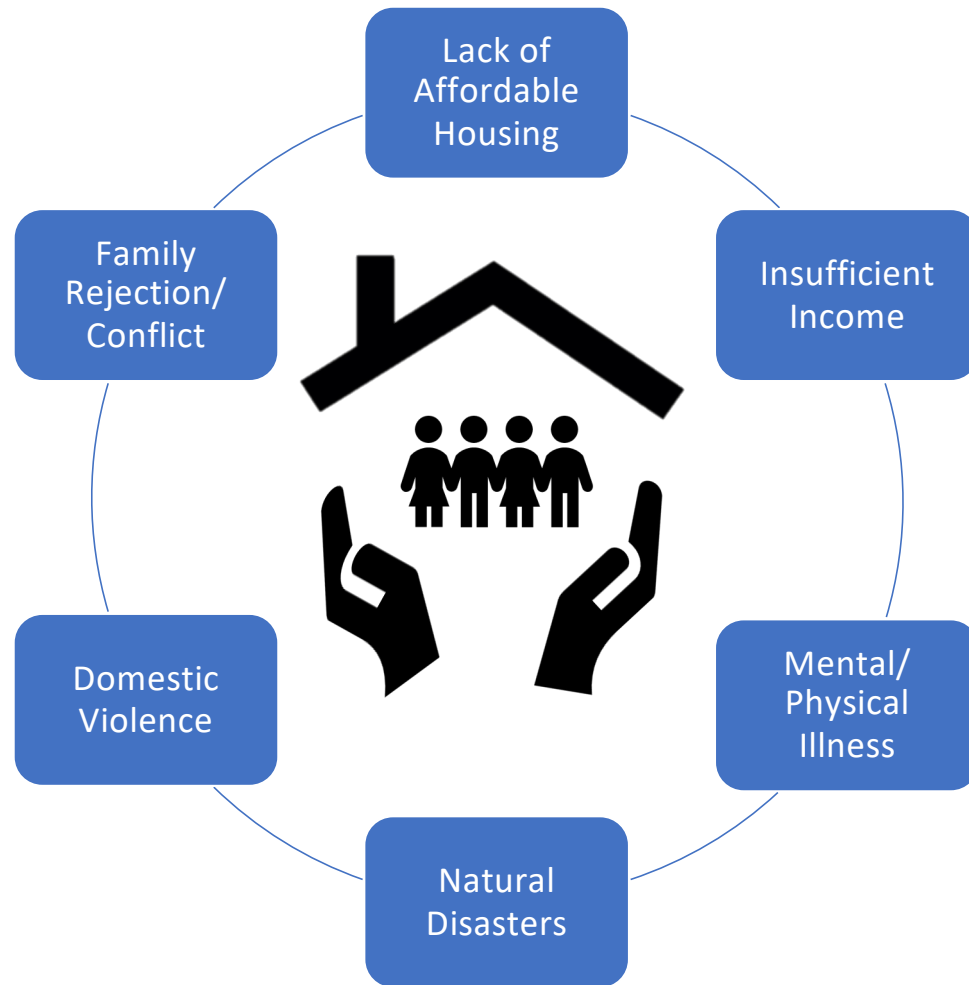
As you watch the video, think about how these stories connect to the stories of students in your communities.



Please respond
in the chat. 😊

Causes of Homelessness

What are the potential causes of homelessness?



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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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What Guides the Determination of Benefits



McKinney-Vento
Homeless Assistance
Act



New York State
Education Law
Section 3209



NYS Commissioner's
Regulations Section
100.2(x)

McKinney-Vento Act



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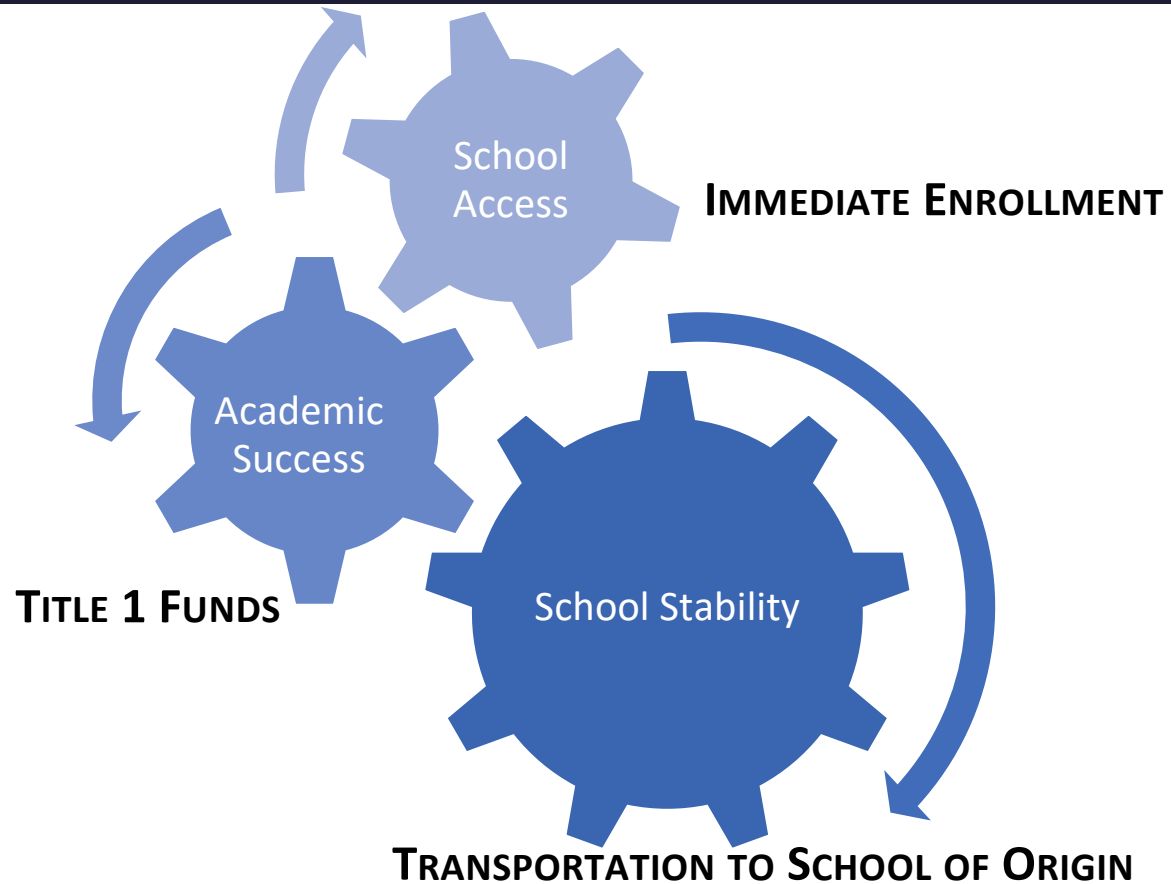


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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Federal law
established in
1987

Reauthorized in
2015 as part of
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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McKinney-Vento Act Requires...

The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local homeless educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths.

The local liaison assists families and district staff with the identification and enrollment of students experiencing temporary housing.



42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)

McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homeless



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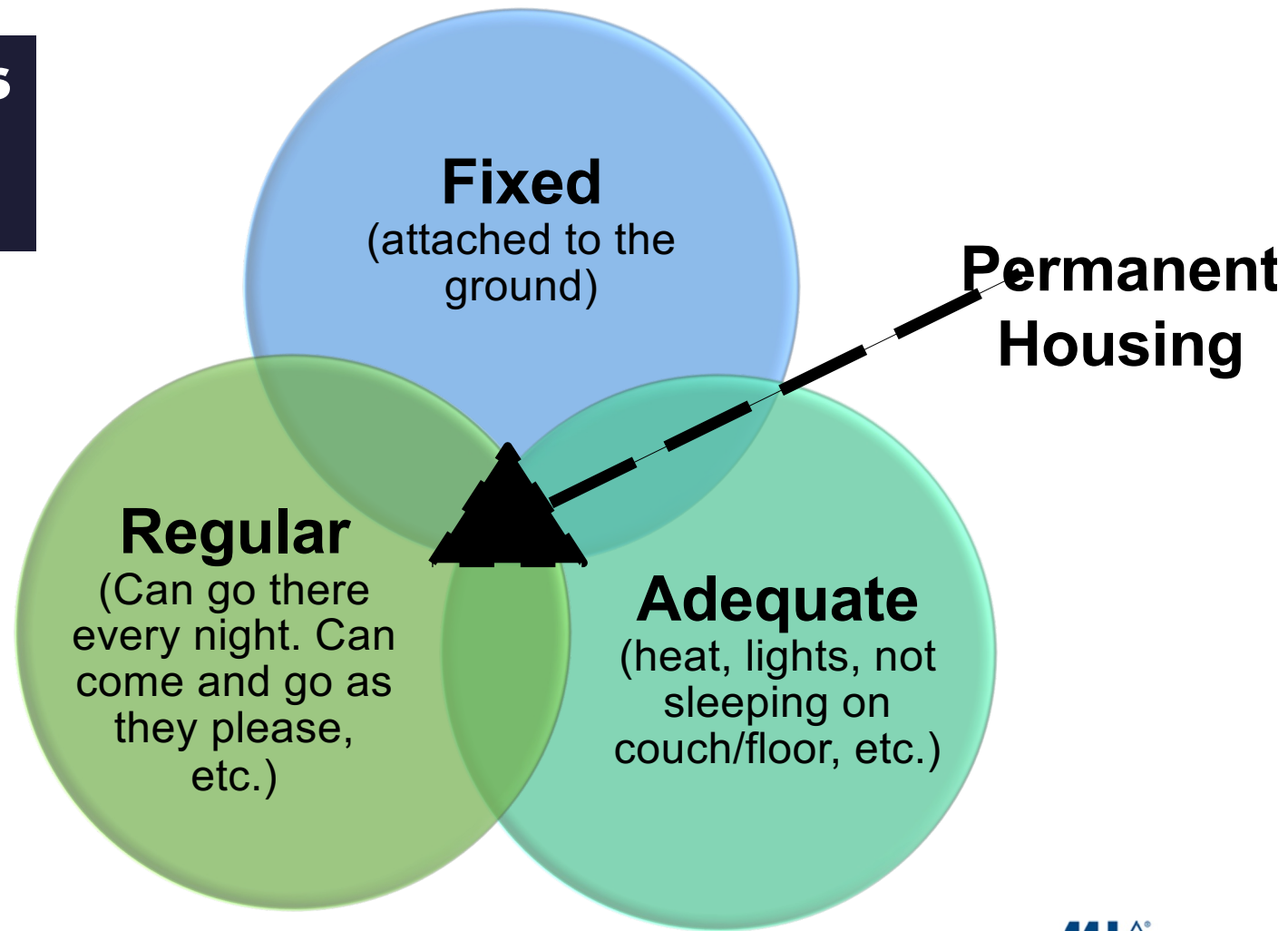
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McKinney-Vento's Definition of Homelessness

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



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Exploring the Definition of Homelessness

Fixed:

Fixed residence: one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change. Example: a tent is not “fixed,” but a house or an apartment are usually fixed to the ground.

National Center for Homeless Education www.nche.gov

Exploring the Definition of Homelessness

Regular:

A regular residence is a place that a student can return to consistently and count on, night after night. Example: If the family has a lease or they own their own home, the housing is usually “regular,” but if the students are staying in someone else’s home with the host’s permission, the housing may not be regular.

Normal, standard; constituted, conducted, or done in conformity with established or prescribed usages, rules, or discipline; and

Recurring, attending, or functioning at fixed or uniform intervals.
(Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary)

Regular residence: one which is used on a regular (for example, nightly) basis.



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National Center for Homeless Education <https://nche.ed.gov/>



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Exploring the Definition of Homelessness

Adequate:

Fully sufficient; equal to what is required; and lawfully and reasonably sufficient. (Ballentine's Law Dictionary)

Adequate residence: one that is sufficient for **meeting both the physical and psychological needs** that are typically met in home environments. For example: A home without heat, running water, or with an infestation may not be “adequate.”

National Center for Homeless Education www.nche.gov

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Homelessness = lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence



If any one of these criteria is missing, the student is eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits.



A student may be considered homeless for an unspecified length of time if housing is not fixed, regular and adequate.

Homelessness: Living Conditions

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

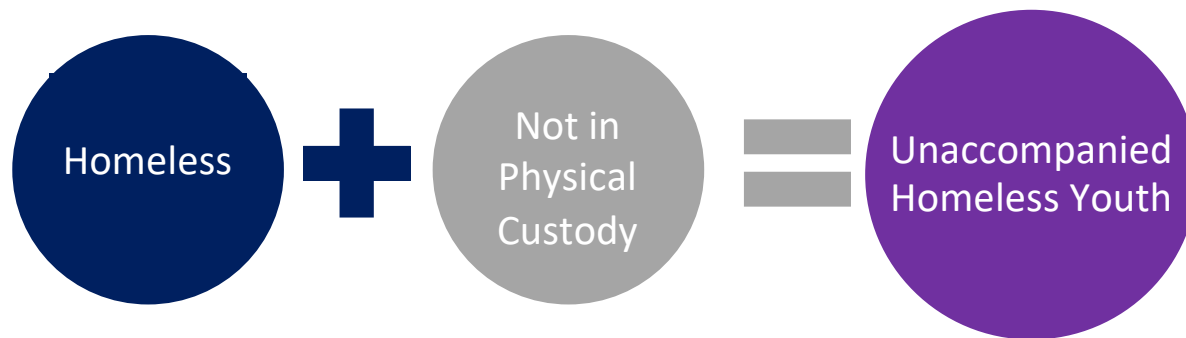
Unaccompanied youth living in circumstances described above

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

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.



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



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Determining Eligibility Scenarios



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Scenario #1

A family with two children lives in a two-bedroom apartment. There is a fire in the apartment, so they move into a motel room in the next town over. 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 family with two children living in a two-bedroom apartment. Their children are getting bigger, so they move into a three-bedroom house in the next town over. 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 #3



Mom is living with two children in a one-bedroom apartment. The landlord evicts the family and they have nowhere to go so they are staying in mom's car. 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 fixed, regular or adequate.

LEA Responsibilities



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Under the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs Must...

Review and revise policies that act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless children and youth, including barriers caused by absences. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(I).

[Sample LEA Policy memo](#)

Remove barriers to enrollment in school, which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(I)

Ensure that homeless children and youth are **identified** by school personnel and receive the educational services for which they are eligible. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)

Under the McKinney-Vento Act LEAs Must...

Provide transportation to students in temporary housing to help students stay in school. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii) & NYS Education Law Section 3209(4)

Enroll students in temporary housing immediately, even if the student is unable to provide documents typically required for enrollment, such as school records, medical records including immunization records, proof of residency, guardianship papers, birth certificate, or other documents normally needed. Also enroll students in temporary housing even if they fail to meet application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

Designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a **local homeless education liaison**. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)

Housing Questionnaire

- Screening tool is required for all students
- Required at the time of enrollment and change of address

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: ____/____/____ Grade: ____ ID#: _____
Month Day Year (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.)

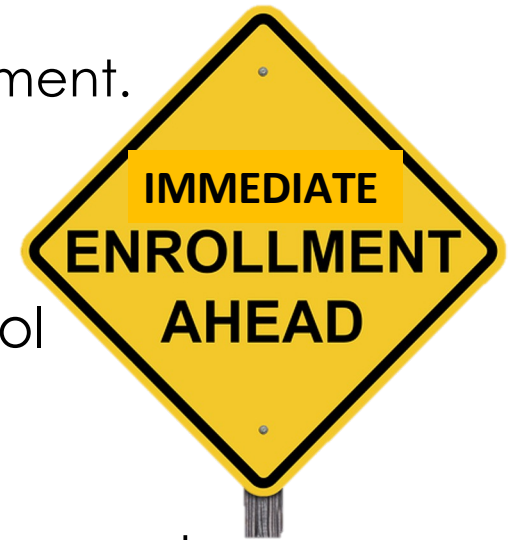
- ☐ In a shelter
- ☐ With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up")
- ☐ In a hotel/motel
- ☐ In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite
- ☐ Other temporary living situation (Please describe): _____
- ☐ In permanent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

 Print name of Parent, Guardian, or

 Signature of Parent, Guardian, or

Immediate Enrollment

- The selected school must immediately enroll, even if the child/youth:
 - Does not have records normally needed for enrollment.
 - Has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- The enrolling school should contact the last school attended for the student's records.
- Liaison must assist child/youth in obtaining any necessary immunizations or other required health records.



Education Law § 3209(2)(f); 8 NYCRR § 100.2(x)(4)(ii); see also 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions I-5 & I-6.

Remove Barriers to Enrollment

Missing records,
immunizations, proof
of residency,
guardianship papers,
or a birth certificate

Fees, fines, and all
absences

Missed application
or enrollment
deadlines

All types of
programs and
activities

Credit accrual for full
or partially
completed
coursework at prior
school

1: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][3][C][i]; U.S. Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions I-5; 2: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][I], Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions A-4, I-5, I-6; 3: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][F][iii], Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions I-6, 15; 4: 42 U.S.C. § 11432[g][1][F][ii], Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section O

Remove Barriers to Enrollment: Providing Transportation

Local liaisons must ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless child, or any unaccompanied youth:



is **fully informed of all transportation services**, including transportation to and from the school of origin, and

is **assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected** in accordance with the best interest determination.

➡ Transportation should be arranged **within three days** if possible.

Transportation for Students in Temporary Housing



Students experiencing homelessness, including preschoolers, are entitled to transportation to their 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 comparable transportation as their permanently housed peers receive, and elimination of barriers to enroll in and attend school.



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42 U.S.C § 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.

Check for Understanding



Check for Understanding #1

The McKinney-Vento Act states that children and youth who lack “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” will be considered homeless. Which of the following would be an eligible living situation? **Select all that apply.**



- A. Living in an apartment lacking adequate heat and/or electricity
- B. Living doubled up with a friend due to an eviction
- C. Living doubled up with your grandmother so you can take care of her and she can take care of your three-year-old
- D. Living in a motel due to an infestation in your apartment.
- E. All of the above

Check for Understanding #2

A McKinney-Vento eligible family has been attending in district but living outside of the district for the past 2 years. What should the liaison do?



- A. Confirm eligibility and continue enrollment in the district of origin.
- B. Suggest that the family enroll in the district of current residence.
- C. Communicate that they can stay enrolled, but the family needs to provide transportation.
- D. Not sure

Check for Understanding #3

Can McKinney-Vento eligible students be enrolled without the proper documentation?

- A. Yes, if there is a parent present.
- B. Yes, if they have proof of residency.
- C. Yes, M-V eligible students can enroll without documentation.
- D. No, they need a birth certificate.



Check for Understanding #4

An unaccompanied youth comes in to register in the district. She shares that she is staying temporarily with a friend in the district. What should the district do?

- A. The district should enroll the student and gather documents later.
- B. The district should complete the enrollment paperwork and wait until the records come before the student attends classes.
- C. The district liaison should call the parent and ask why the parent isn't enrolling the youth.
- D. The district should ask for guardianship papers before completing the enrollment process.



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Summary



M-V Liaison'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

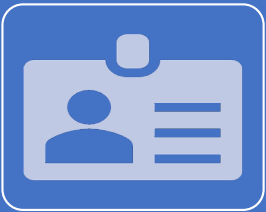
Equal access to the same free, appropriate public education and related services needed to meet State academic standards.



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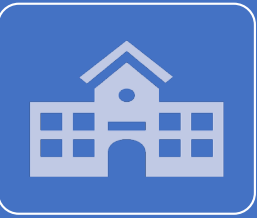
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Role of the McKinney-Vento Liaison



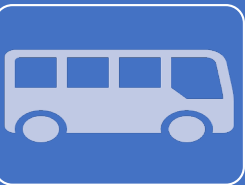
IDENTIFICATION

- Meets the definition of lacking a fixed, adequate and regular nighttime residence.
- Eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits for an unspecified length of time as long as housing is not fixed, adequate and regular.



ENROLLMENT

- Enrollment in school of origin or the school deemed to be in the best interest of the student.
- Help parents, guardians, and unaccompanied homeless youth obtain required health records, needed immunizations, or health screenings.



SUPPORT

- 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.
- Remove Barriers from: identification, enrollment, attendance and success in school.

Key Ideas

What are some key ideas to remember about the **McKinney-Vento Act** as the school year begins?



Resources

More
Information



[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)

[Housing Questionnaire \(English\)](#)

[Housing Questionnaire \(Spanish\)](#)

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

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

[Enrollment Checklist](#)

[Sample LEA Policy memo](#)



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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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Next Webinar:

McKinney-Vento Liaison Role and Responsibilities

Thursday, September 11, 2025

9:30am – 11:00am



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