

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (M-V) ensures educational rights for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The primary goal is educational stability.

### Definition of Homeless

McKinney-Vento defines homeless students as those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes:

1. Children and youth who:
  - are forced to share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
  - live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - live in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youth who live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances outlined in items 1, 2 and 3.

**Homeless Unaccompanied Youth** are students who are not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian and are living in one of the situations listed above.

### Eligible students have certain educational rights and are able to:

1. Enroll in school immediately, even if they are lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
2. Choose between the local school where they are living or the school last attended before becoming homeless, when feasible.
3. Receive transportation assistance to the school of origin when requested by a parent/guardian/homeless unaccompanied youth.
4. Attend school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
5. Receive school services comparable to services offered to other students.

### Eligibility:

Eligibility for McKinney-Vento rights is determined by the District's Homeless Education Program (HEP) office staff. Renewal is not automatic; eligibility is good for one school year at a time. Referrals can be made by completing a [Student Residency Statement \(SRS\)](#) form and faxing to the HEP office at 770-437-5935 (fax) or by contacting the HEP office. The SRS form is also available at the local school.

### For Further Information:

Refer to [Administrative Rule JBC \(1\)-R](#) or contact the Homeless Education Program office at 678 503-0173. The School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, color, sex, disability or age in administering the McKinney-Vento Act. See the "Chart of Responsibilities for Responses to Civil Rights Concerns" in this Guide for the title, telephone number and address of the person(s) responsible for coordinating compliance efforts related to Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, Title II, and the Age Discrimination Act.