

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of students in temporary housing.

It defines “**homeless** children and youths” as any student who **lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**.

As a parent/guardian, **YOU HAVE RIGHTS** regarding the education of your child(ren).



If you are living in a temporary housing situation, your children have important educational rights. To be an advocate for your student, you should:

Know Your Rights

- **Choice of Schools:** Your children have the right to stay enrolled in the school they most recently attended, to re-enroll in the school where you were last permanently housed, and to enroll in the local area where your family is temporarily living.
- **Immediate Enrollment:** Your children are entitled to immediately enroll in school, even if you do not have ANY paperwork for them, including immunization forms, guardianship papers, birth certificates, and proof of address.
- **Transportation:** Your children have the right to transportation to/from the school they last attended or were last permanently housed. They may also be entitled to receive transportation to/from the local school if other students in the area receive it.
- **Free Meals and Title I Services:** Your children are entitled to receive free meals at their school, without filling out any paperwork regarding your family's finances. They are also eligible to for all Title I services and programs.
- **McKinney-Vento Liaison:** Every school district must have a McKinney-Vento liaison who is available to help you enroll your child in school and connect you and your family with services.

Ask the Right Questions

- Who is the local McKinney-Vento liaison? How can I contact her or him?
- What transportation is available for my child? Who can help me set it up?
- Who can help set up free meals for my child?
- What if my child needs special education or English Language Learning (ELL) services?

Keep Track of Important Documents

- Although not necessary for your child's immediate enrollment in school, keeping track of important documents like immunization records, birth certificates and individualized education programs (IEPs) will be helpful.

Know Who Can Help?

- We can! You can call us with any questions regarding your children's educational rights. You can also call the **McKinney-Vento liaison** in your school district who can help you access the services described above. For contact information, please call us (**NYS-TEACHS**) at **800-388-2014**.



Toll Free Hotline: (800) 388-2014

Email: info@nysteachs.org

Website: www.nysteachs.org

This tip sheet was adapted from materials from the Illinois, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia Departments of Education and the National Center for Homeless Education