

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



The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youths” as any student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Children and youth living in temporary housing have important transportation rights:

- Students in temporary housing have the right to transportation to/from:
 - The school where they were last permanently housed (up to 50 miles each way)
 - The school where they last attended (up to 50 miles each way)
 - The school where they are living temporarily (if it is provided to other students)
- Transportation should be arranged within **no more than 3 business days**.

Prepare

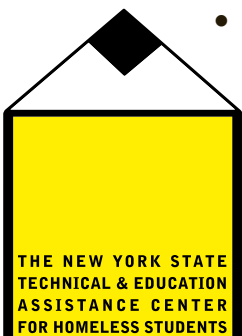
- Ensure that all transportation staff members, including bus drivers and dispatchers, are familiar with McKinney-Vento.
- Develop formal or informal inter-district agreements for school districts that share students in temporary housing.
- Convene a meeting of local McKinney-Vento liaisons and pupil transportation personnel to establish procedures.
- Develop procedures that address questions such as:
 - Who will make the referral to transportation within each district?
 - Who will be the point person for the inter-district coordination in each district transportation office?
 - How will varying school calendars be handled?
 - What are the timelines for scheduling alternative routes?

Support

- Do not stigmatize students in temporary housing by disclosing to their peers that they are staying in shelters or other temporary locations; pick up these students first and drop them off last so that their peers will not see where they are staying (or consider alternate pick-up/drop-off sites near where the students are staying)

Act

- Keep track of system requirements for the pupil transportation system. For instance, if the funding for the year is based on services being performed early in the school year, work to make sure students in temporary housing are identified prior to that funding window.
 - Investigate all possibilities for funding, including from agencies outside of the school system; check with your state’s department of transportation regarding your state’s coordinated transportation program.
 - Look into using special education and/or magnet school buses.



NYS-TEACHS

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