

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.

School nurses can support these students in the following ways:

Know

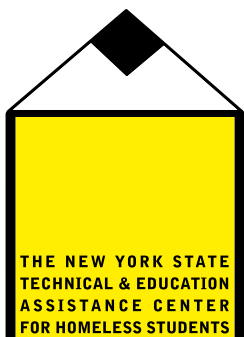
- The law. Children and youth living in temporary housing should be enrolled and begin attending classes immediately, even without immunization documents.
- Be familiar with the common characteristics of students in temporary housing (these may include: attendance at several schools, incomplete records, transportation problems, and/or parents who seem confused when asked about student’s current address or last school of attendance).

Support

- Be available to help parents with the completion of all necessary medical records
- Ask about glasses—the student may need them but not have them
- Develop a reliable and accessible source of medical and dental care for families in temporary housing. Share your discoveries with the school district’s McKinney-Vento liaison.
- Show that you care about the student. Be available, accessible and compassionate to the concerns, needs, and feelings of the family. Be a good listener and be empathetic.

Act

- Contact the school district’s McKinney-Vento liaison so that services (free meals, transportation, tutoring, etc.) may be arranged without delay.
- Verify immunization records and, if necessary, contact the student’s previous school to help obtain immunization and medical records.
- Refer the student to the local health department for any needed immunizations.
- Alert principals and teachers to any serious medical condition the student may have.



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