

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 secretaries and enrollment personnel can support these students in the following ways:

### Know

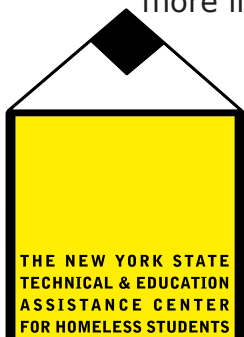
- Be familiar with the common characteristics of students in temporary housing (these may include: attendance at several schools, incomplete records, transportation problems, and/or parents who seem confused when asked about a student’s current address or last school of attendance).

### Support

- If you suspect a family may be in temporary housing, assure them that their children can be enrolled even if the family does not have a “regular” place to live right now or if they lack some of the documents typically needed to enroll
- Take the family to a private place to fill out enrollment forms and ask additional questions
- Offer to assist with filling out enrollment forms. (Hesitation may indicate an inability to read.)
- Be sensitive, patient, calm and reassuring

### Act

- Enroll the child immediately, even if they lack the records normally required for enrollment
- Ask for the name/city of the last school attended and call the school to have all academic records forwarded to your school
- Contact the school district’s McKinney-Vento liaison when identifying a homeless student so that services (free meals program, transportation, tutoring, etc.) may be arranged
- If academic documents are missing, arrange for the student to take a placement test. For more information, visit <http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/assessment.pdf>.



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