

# Techniques for Parents and Guardians

If you are living in temporary housing, **YOU HAVE RIGHTS** regarding the education of your children under the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act**.

**Call us at 800-388-2014 for help.**



## Know Your Rights

- **School Choice:** If you move into temporary housing, your children have 3 school choices! They can stay in the same school they went to when you had a permanent address, OR stay in their most recent school, OR transfer to the school for where you are staying now. This includes public preschool programs.
- **Immediate Enrollment:** You can enroll your children in school without the usually required documents. The school must enroll your children within 1 day even without immunization forms, guardianship papers, birth certificates, or proof of address. After your children are enrolled, the school can help you get any needed records.
- **Transportation:** If your children stay in their same school, they can get free transportation to/from that school. If you move from temporary to permanent housing during the school year, your children will still get transportation for at least the rest of the school year, and maybe one more year, if it's their last year in the building. This includes pre-school aged students.
- **Free Meals and Title I Services:** Your children can get free meals at school. You do not need to fill out any forms about your family's finances. Students in temporary housing can also get Title I services, including emergency supplies, counseling, tutoring, etc.
- **Help from McKinney-Vento Liaison:** Every school district has a McKinney-Vento liaison. The liaison is a staff person who will help you enroll your child in school and connect you and your family with services. If you don't know who your district's liaison is, call us at 800-388-2014 and we can tell you.

## Ask the Right Questions

- Can I talk with the McKinney-Vento liaison?
- What transportation is available for my child?
- 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

- You have the right to enroll your children without documents or records. But, it will be helpful if you do have things like immunization records, birth certificates, or academic records.

## Know Who Can Help

We can! You can call us (**NYS-TEACHS**) at **800-388-2014** with any questions regarding your children's educational rights. You can also call the **McKinney-Vento liaison** in your school district.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical Assistance  
Center for Homeless Students

*NYS-TEACHS is funded by the New York State Education Department. At the time of this publication, NYS-TEACHS was housed at Measurement Incorporated.*



*This tip sheet was adapted from materials from the IL, NC, TX, and VA Departments of Education and the National Center for Homeless Education.*