

## Educational Rights for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Every child deserves a stable, high-quality education—no matter where they live. The **McKinney-Vento Act** helps students who are experiencing homelessness stay in school and succeed.

If your child or teen does not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, they may qualify for support under this law.

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### School Options

Children and youth who qualify under McKinney-Vento have the right to attend **one of two schools**:

- **School of Origin:** The school your child last attended when you had permanent housing, or the school where your child was most recently enrolled. This includes preschool programs and any schools that your child would move to next (“feeder schools”).
- **School of Residency:** The school in the attendance area where your child is currently staying.

You, as the parent or guardian, have the right to choose between the **school of origin** and the **school of residency**.

Whenever possible, schools are encouraged to keep students in their **school of origin**, since staying in a familiar environment can help with stability and learning. However, when a student is no longer consistently attending school, a best interest meeting may be held. This meeting will discuss student-centered factors related to the impact of mobility on a student’s achievement, education, health and safety.

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### Who Helps Decide What’s Best

When deciding which school is in your child’s best interest, the following people may help with the decision:

- You (the parent or guardian)
  - Your child or teen
  - The McKinney-Vento Liaison
  - School administrators or principals
  - Your child’s teachers
  - School social workers and/or counselors
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### **The McKinney-Vento Liaison's Role**

Each school district has a McKinney-Vento Liaison who:

- Helps families understand their rights,
  - Works with schools to determine the school of origin and residency, and
  - Helps resolve any disagreements about school placement
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### **If There Is Disagreement**

If you and the school do not agree on which school your child should attend:

- Your child will **stay enrolled** in the school where you are seeking enrollment.
- If requested, **school transportation** can be provided until the disagreement is resolved.

You can appeal any decision by:

- Completing a Dispute Resolution Form, or
- Contacting the McKinney-Vento Liaison directly.

You will receive the Dispute Resolution Form and more information about the process if a disagreement occurs.

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### **We're Here to Help**

If you believe your child may qualify for McKinney-Vento services or if you have questions, please contact the McKinney-Vento Liaison or the Director of Student Services at 828-697-4733.

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