

McKinney-Vento/Homelessness

Homelessness Liaison

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Definition of Homelessness

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) defines homeless as follows:

The term “homeless children and youths” –

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and

(B) includes–

*(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;**

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

*Per Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, “awaiting foster care placement” was removed from the definition of homeless on December 10, 2016; the only exception to his removal is that “covered states” have until December 10, 2017 to remove “awaiting foster care placement” from their definition of homeless.

View the [full text of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#).

For more information on determining homelessness, visit [Determining Eligibility for Services Under McKinney-Vento](#).

Information for School-Age Youth



IF YOU ARE STAYING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter or transitional housing

In a motel, hotel, or campground
because you don't have another
safe and stable place to stay

In a car, park, public place,
abandoned building, or bus or
train station

In someone else's house because
you lost your housing or are going
through a hard time financially and
don't have another safe and stable
place to stay

You might qualify for help
at school under the federal
McKinney-Vento Act, even if
you are on your own and not
with a parent or guardian.



If you qualify under the McKinney-Vento Act, you have the right to:

Go to public school for free and
participate fully in school activities.

Enroll in school immediately and go
to class, even if you don't have the
documents normally required for
school. The school where you are
enrolled is responsible for helping
you get any documents needed to
keep attending classes.

**Enroll in the local school near where
you're staying or continue going
to your school of origin** (the school
you went to when you last had a safe
and stable place to live or the school
where you were last enrolled), based
on where you think would be best
for you to go to school.

If the school district thinks that
where you want to go to school is

not in your best interest, the district
has to tell you in writing why it thinks
another school would be better for
you and give you the opportunity to
appeal its decision if you want to do
that. The district also has to connect
you with the McKinney-Vento
district liaison, who has to help you
understand your right to appeal.

**Get transportation to and from
your school of origin**, if you keep
going to this school and ask for
transportation.

Get help at school that is similar
to the help other students get,
based on what you might need.
These services could include
transportation, academic help,
and free meals at school.

If you think you might qualify, contact the district McKinney-Vento
local liaison or the McKinney-Vento state coordinator to find out
what help might be available for you at school.

Katelynn Black

McKinney-Vento Local Liaison

724-963-9000

blackk@calcharteracademy.org

Storm Camara

McKinney-Vento State Coordinator

717-772-2066

You also can contact the National Center for Homeless Education
if you have questions about your education:

1-305-306-8495 • NCHE.helpline@safalpartners.com • <http://nche.ed.gov>

Resources:

[ECYEH General Guide to Homelessness in PA](#)

[ECYEH School Staff Guide](#)

[Procedural Safeguards Denial of Enrollment Form](#)

[School Enrollment Complaint Form - PDE](#)

[Determining Eligibility -NCHE](#)

[Basic Education Circular - Homeless Youth](#)