

## **McKinney-Vento Act Residency and Educational Rights Information**

(questionnaire must be completed for each student)

The McKinney-Vento act provides certain rights for homeless students. This includes waiving certain requirements such as proof of residency when students are enrolling and allowing eligibility for certain services, such as free textbooks. The Act was created with the goal of ensuring the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.

When families and students find themselves in transition due to their housing situation, it is important that they know their rights regarding education. If students meet the requirements as stated in the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. 111431 et seq., Title VII, Subtitle B), their rights are as follows:

- Students may attend their school of origin or the school where they are temporarily residing.
- Students must be provided a written statement of their rights when they enroll and at least two additional times per year.
- Students may enroll without school, medical or similar records.
- Students have the right to transportation to school
- Students must be provided a statement explaining why they are denied enrollment or any other services.
- Students must receive services, such as transportation, while disputes are being settled.
- Students are automatically eligible for Title I services.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, people living in the following situations are considered homeless:

- Doubled up with family or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Living in motels and hotels for lack of other suitable housing
- Runaway and displaced children and youth -- Unaccompanied Youth
- Homes for unwed or expectant mothers for lack of a place to live
- Homeless and domestic violence shelters
- Transitional housing programs
- The streets
- Abandoned buildings
- Public places not meant for housing
- Cars, trailers (does not include mobile homes intended for permanent housing), and campgrounds
- Awaiting foster care
- Migratory children staying in housing not fit for habitation

**Please complete the McKinney-Vento questionnaire and return to your school guidance office.**

Questions may be directed to your Social Worker, Belleville Henderson CSD Principal, Scott Storey (315) 846-5411, or: Belleville Henderson CSD McKinney-Vento Liaison, Shaun Gagan (315) 846-5825.  
Melanie Faby, McKinney-Vento State Coordinator (581) 473-0295

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

### Students in Temporary Housing Guide for Parents & Youth

<p><b>Children living in the following situations are considered homeless for the purposes of education rights under the McKinney-Vento Act:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a shelter, transitional shelter, motel, campground, abandoned in a hospital, or awaiting foster care placement.</li> <li>• In a car, park, public place, bus, train or abandoned building.</li> <li>• Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unaccompanied Youth</b></p>	<p>Youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and who meets the definition of homelessness set forth in the explanation above.</p> <p><i>Unaccompanied homeless youth have the same rights as homeless students who reside with a parent or guardian.</i></p>
<p><b>Students who fall under the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homeless have the following rights:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To a free public education.</li> <li>• To immediate enrollment in the zoned school.</li> <li>• To attend school no matter how long they have lived at their current location.</li> <li>• To stay in their school of origin (school attended before becoming homeless or the last school attended) or choose to attend their new zoned school.</li> <li>• To transportation services to and from school.</li> <li>• To not be denied immediate school enrollment just because of their situation or because they lack enrollment documentation.</li> </ul> <p>To not be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless. To receive free school meals.</p>
<p><b>Important information:</b></p>	<p>Office of Safety and Youth Development (OSYD) has at least one Students in Temporary Housing (STH) Content Expert in each borough who serves as the STH liaison and manages programs and services designed to help children who are homeless pursue their education. The STH Content Expert supervises a team of Family Assistants.</p> <p>Additionally, District 75 and District 79 each have a designated STH liaison available to assist children who are homeless with their educational needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Assistants are located at shelters and in some schools. They are responsible for assisting homeless parents and their children with their educational needs.</li> <li>• Family Assistants are available to assist the child's parent/guardian with school enrollment, obtaining immunizations, school records, and arranging transportation to and from school. School staff should not hesitate to contact their STH liaison for individual questions, to arrange training, or to assist unaccompanied youth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Selection:</b></p>	<p>Schools must allow parents/guardians to choose the child's school when their child is homeless. The parent/guardian may choose among the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The school the child attended when permanently housed (school of origin);</li> <li>b) The school in which the student was last enrolled; or</li> <li>c) Any school available to a permanently housed child residing in the area where the homeless student is currently residing.</li> </ol>
<p><b>School Enrollment: (Apply only if your child is not currently enrolled or you want to change school)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary School – register your child at your zoned school. If you are currently residing in a NYC Department of Homeless Services shelter, the family assistant at your shelter will be able to assist you, if needed. If there is no family assistant in your shelter or if you are not residing in a shelter, please contact your school or the STH liaison for assistance.</li> <li>• Middle School – same procedure as elementary school except where your district does not have zoned middle schools, then you must report to the Borough Enrollment Center. For the location of your Borough Enrollment Center, please call 311.</li> <li>• High School – all high school students must register at the Borough Enrollment Center. For the location of the nearest Borough Enrollment Center, please call 311.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enrollment Disputes:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a dispute arises over the school selection or enrollment, your child must be immediately admitted to the school in which he/she is seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute.</li> <li>• The parent/guardian must be provided with a written explanation of the school decision on the dispute, including the right to appeal, and referred to the STH Family Assistant or STH liaison for assistance.</li> </ul>

<b>Transportation:</b>	<p>Students who are defined as homeless by the McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to transportation to and from school, if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If available, busses will be provided to students grades K-6; if not available, they are eligible for student MetroCard.</li><li>• For students in grades Pre-K to 6 who are eligible for transportation and receive a student MetroCard, their parents/guardians are eligible for public transportation assistance (MetroCard) to accompany the child.</li><li>• Students in grades 7-12 are eligible for student MetroCard.</li></ul>
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For more information, please contact the borough Students in Temporary Housing Office to speak to an STH liaison or call 311 or visit our web site at:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsInTemporaryHousing/default.htm>

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**NOTE TO SCHOOLS/LEAS:** Please assist students and families fill out this form. Do not simply include this form in the registration packet, because if the student qualifies as residing in temporary housing, the **student is not required to submit proof of residency** and other required documents that may be part of the registration packet.

### MODEL ENROLLMENT FORM - RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of LEA: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Gender:  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year (preschool-12) (optional)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The answer you give below will help the district determine what services you or your child may be able to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to immediate enrollment in school even if they don't have the documents normally needed, such as proof of residency, school records, immunization records, or birth certificate. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act may also be entitled to free transportation and other services.

Where is the student currently living? (Please check one box.)

- In a shelter
- With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up")
- In a hotel/motel
- In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite
- Other temporary living situation (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
  
- In permanent housing

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print name** of Parent, Guardian, or Student (for unaccompanied homeless youth)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** of Parent, Guardian, or Student (for unaccompanied homeless youth)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

If the student is **NOT** living in permanent housing, **proof of residency** and other documents normally needed for enrollment **are not required** and the **student is to be immediately enrolled**. The district's LEA liaison is required to assist the student in obtaining any necessary documents, including immunization or school records after the student has been enrolled.

**NOTE TO SCHOOLS/LEAS:** If the student is **NOT** living in permanent housing, please ensure that a Designation Form is completed.

