



PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The McKinney-Vento law says that homelessness includes individuals who do not have a fixed, regular and adequate home because they have lost their own home. This means:

- Individuals who have lost their own home, suffering a financial hardship or similar reason
- Individuals who are sharing the housing of others
- Individuals who are living in hotels or motels or in campgrounds, shelters
- Individuals who are living in cars, parks or public spaces.

The rights of homeless parents and their homeless students:

- Your child may stay in the school of origin or enroll in the local school.
- If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your child(ren), then the district must provide you with a written explanation and inform you of your right to appeal
- Your child must receive the transportation he or she needs
 - You can expect to enroll your child in school without delay, even if you do not have paperwork, such as your child's birth certificate or medical records
 - Your child has the right to receive free meals
 - Your child has the right to receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students
 - After being placed in permanent housing, your child may stay in his or her original school for the rest of the school year and receive transportation to that school, if this is found to be in the best interest of your child. This will provide stability for your child.

To help your student have stability, you can:

- Keep in touch with the school district's local contact person to update this person on changes that may occur with the child including transportation needs
- Make sure your student is going to school regularly
- Ask the School Social Worker about help available in the community
- Ask for more support for your child's education, if needed. This includes school supplies and support in learning.

Your School Social Worker can help you:

- Understand your rights
- Make a choice between schools
- Get school records sent to another school and help locate birth certificates and vaccination records
- Get information about help in the community, such as health, dental and mental health care and other services
- Make sure your student has the needed academic support and refer for educational services as needed
- Connect your student with after-school programs and activities
- Manage disputes about whether you or your child qualify for these services

Parent Signature

Date

School Social Worker Contact Information:

McKinney Vento School District Liaison: Dr. Johnnye Waller 919-774-6226