

The McKinney-Vento Act: Parent-Student Rights

Idaho public schools shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every student experiencing homelessness or transition shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and unaccompanied youth, applied to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

A student may be considered eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if he or she is presently living:

- In temporary shared housing, a shelter, or transitional living program due to financial hardship or natural disaster/fire
- In a hotel/motel, campground, or similar situation due to lack of alternatives
- At a bus station, park, car, abandoned building, or substandard housing

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, eligible students have rights to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending the school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.
 - *If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision*
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs. Children with special education needs between the ages of 3 and 21 are eligible to receive special needs services. If you believe your child may be eligible, contact your school or the district Special Education office.

If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation, or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint with the school district. The school district must respond and attempt to resolve it quickly. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school and provided transportation to the school of origin until the matter is resolved. The McKinney Vento Liaison will assist you in providing information regarding the McKinney-Vento program, the appeal process, and filling out dispute forms.

District MV Liaison Contact Information:

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