

McKinney-Vento

What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that ensures students experiencing homelessness have access to a free and appropriate public education. It defines homelessness broadly, including living in shelters, cars, or "doubled up" with other families due to loss of housing, and grants these students rights like immediate enrollment, even without typical documentation, and the ability to remain in their "school of origin".

Definition of homelessness:

The act defines a homeless child or youth as someone lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. If you live in any of the following situations, you may qualify for certain rights and protections due to loss of housing or economic hardship under the federal McKinney-Vento Act:

- In a shelter
- In a motel or campground due to lack of accommodation
- In a car, park, abandoned building or bus/train station
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Rights of students in homeless situations:

- Attend either local school or school of origin, if this is in the child's best interest.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if this is in the child's best interest.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate in school activities while the school gathers records.
- Attend school with students not experiencing homelessness; a school can not segregate a student due to homelessness.
- Receive information and services to support student success.
- **Removal of barriers:** School districts are required to develop policies that remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of students experiencing homelessness. This includes barriers caused by outstanding fees, fines, or school absences.
- **Support for unaccompanied youth:** The act provides specific protections for "unaccompanied homeless youth" (youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian).

Who do I contact if I need assistance?

Every school has a homeless education liaison. This person can assist you with enrollment and support services for your student(s). If you have questions or need guidance, please contact:

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy McKinney-Vento Liaison:

Jacquelyn Scott, School Social Worker, 219-944-3100, ext. 2016

jscott@theabowmanacademy.org

IDOE State Coordinators' Contact Information:

Charlie Gibson, Homeless Education Specialist

Phone: 317.232.0957

McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov

Additional Resources

- [Homeless Students' Rights](#)
- [IDOE McKinney-Vento: Homeless Children & Youth Program](#)

Directory Federal Resources:

- [NCHE - National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
- [NAEHCY - National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth](#)
- [Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness](#)
- [National Homelessness Law Center](#)
- [National Runaway Safeline](#)
- [The Homeless and Housing Resource Center](#)
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [United States Department of Education](#)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)
- [United States Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign](#)
- [A Way Home America](#)
- [National Network for Youth](#)

State Resources:

- [Exodus - Refugee & Immigration Assistance](#)
- [Helping Veterans and Families - Veteran Assistance](#)
- [HSI - Indiana's Homeless Prevention Program - Housing Assistance](#)
- [Indiana 211 - Food, Shelter & Housing, and Health Care Resources across the state](#)
- [Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles - State I.D., Driver's License](#)
- [Indiana Department of Health - Birth Certificates, Vital Statistics](#)
- [Indiana Department of Housing & Urban Development - Housing supports](#)
- [Indiana Department of Workforce Development - Job assistance, High school Equivalency exam](#)
- [Indiana Family & Social Services Administration - SNAP, TANF, Medicaid](#)
- [Indiana Head Start & Early Head Start - School readiness program for children under 5 years.](#)
- [IHCDA - Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority - Housing First program, HomelessYouth Program, Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care](#)
- [Indiana Housing Now - Housing Resources](#)
- [Salvation Army Indiana](#)
- [Volunteers of America](#)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Subtitle B, Section 725(2)