



McKinney-Vento Program

Rights of Students and Families in Transition

Who is Considered Homeless?

According to the NCHE (National Center for Homeless Education), Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as an:

"Individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence," including:

- 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 hotels, motels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals
- 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...;
- children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; an
- migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses listed above

Education Rights Under the McKinney-Vento Act:

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking regular documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documentation
- Enroll in local school or continue attending the school of origin (last school child attended when permanently housed, or school they were last enrolled)
- If the school district believes the school selected is not in the student's best interest, the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its position and inform the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth the right to appeal the decision
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's needs (National Center for Homeless Education)



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Services offered to McKinney-Vento Students through Gilbert Public Schools:

- Free breakfast and lunch
- Help with class fees
- Help with field trip fees
- Instrument rentals
- ChromeBook Insurance (as eligible)
- Transportation services (as eligible)

Foster Care

Foster Care Students

A student in foster care is in: a 24-hour substitute care for child(ren) placed away from their parents/guardians and for whom the child welfare agency (DCS or tribal services) has placement and care responsibility.

School of Origin For Foster Care Students:

The school in which a child(ren) is enrolled at the time of their placement in foster care. If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child(ren) is enrolled at the time of the placement change.

For questions, concerns, or information please contact:

Alexandra Klingensmith

District Homeless Education Liaison - Gilbert Public Schools

Phone: 480-545-2193 Email: alexandra.klingensmith@gilbertschools.net