

Q & A

Q: Who is homeless?

A: Anyone who, due to a lack or loss of housing, lives:

- In a shelter
- In a motel/hotel
- In a vehicle
- In a campground
- On the street
- Doubled-up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason

Q: Where can homeless children and youth attend school?

A: Homeless children and youth can choose to attend either of the following:

- The school of origin: the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled
- The local attendance area school: any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which they child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend (in determining which school the child will attend, the focus is placed on what is in the best interest of the child)
- The district is also required to assist with transportation to/from the school of origin if it is the school of choice and other transportation is not possible.

Q: Can students experiencing homelessness be denied enrollment for lacking paperwork that is normally required for enrollment?

A: No. Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to immediate enrollment, even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment, such as:

- birth certificate
- Immunization or other health/medical records
- Previous academic records
- Proof of residency
- Proof of guardianship

*(The District Homeless Liaison may assist in obtaining these documents for the student's school records. However, enrollment and full participation in school will continue uninterrupted.)

Preschool-aged and school-aged children experiencing homelessness have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. To find out more, contact the District Homeless Liaison.