

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education



DID YOU KNOW?

Students are “homeless” by law if they are staying:

- ◆ With friends or relatives due to eviction, domestic violence, economic hardship or similar reason
- ◆ In a motel, hotel, or trailer park temporarily due to lack of other options
- ◆ In emergency shelter or transitional housing
- ◆ In cars, parks, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations
- ◆ In certain short-term foster care

For more information contact:

**Local school district or
National Center
for Homeless Education
800-308-2145
www.serve.org/nche**

For help connecting to resources contact:

Minnesota Valley Action Council
507-345-6822 or 800-767-7139
www.mnvac.org

Blue Earth County
706 N. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
507-345-6822 ext. 4

Brown County
1618 S. Broadway St.
Suite 203
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-3138

Faribault County
301 N. Main St.
Blue Earth, MN 56013
507-526-5291

Le Sueur County
125 E. Minnesota St.
Le Center, MN 56057
507-357-4246

Martin County
820 Winnebago Ave., Ste 3
Fairmont, MN 56031
507-238-1663

Nicollet County
600 S. 5th St., Ste 213
St. Peter, MN 56082
507-934-5224

Sibley County
110 6th St., Box 87
Gaylord, MN 55334
507-237-2981

Waseca County
108 10th Ave. SE
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-8240

Watonwan County
705 2nd Ave. S.
St. James, MN 56081
507-375-5748

Homeless Education Assistance Act

RIGHTS AND PROTECTION UNDER THE
MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ACT



MVAC works with community partners to provide warmth, transportation, food, housing, advocacy and education to individuals and families.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Under the McKinney-Vento Act: *Each homeless child or youth must have "equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education," as other children and youth.*

Choice of School & Transportation

Homeless students have the choice to attend:

1) The 'school of origin,' which is the school the student last attended or attended before becoming homeless, even if it is out of the local school zone or district.

OR

2) The 'local' or 'zoned' school, which is the school attended by others living in the same area as the student's current residence.

⇒ If a homeless student attend the school of origin, he or she has the right to **free transportation** to school.

⇒ The decision about which school the student attends should be based on the student's **best interests** and the parent/guardian's wishes.

Immediate Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to enroll in class and participate in school activities immediately even if they lack:

- ◆ Immunization records, school records, birth certificate, proof of residence or guardianship, etc.;
- ◆ School uniforms or school fees; or
- ◆ A parent/guardian present.

The school must assist the student in obtaining missing records *after* enrollment.

Equal Access to Programs/Support

Homeless students must have access to education programs and services, such as:

- ◆ Sports/clubs
- ◆ Special education
- ◆ Tutoring
- ◆ Before/after school
- ◆ Gifted/talented
- ◆ Bilinguals/ESL
- ◆ Vocational
- ◆ Summer school

Schools **cannot** charge homeless students fees for these programs and activities and must remove other barriers, such as strict application deadlines or admission requirements.

⇒ Meals: Students are automatically eligible for free lunch and breakfast.

⇒ Referrals: Schools should connect students / families to healthcare, counseling, food pantries, help with housing, and other resources

INDEPENDENT YOUTH

Students living without a parent or legal guardian?

- ◆ The school district's Homeless Education Coordinator can provide extra help with enrollment and accessing education services.
- ◆ Students can enroll even if they do not have a parent or guardian to help them, including students who are 18.
- ◆ If applying for college, students may file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) without parental information and may list a school address as their permanent mailing address

