



McKinney-Vento Act — Educational Rights for Homeless Students

What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that creates special protections for homeless students.
- The goal of McKinney-Vento is make sure that homeless students have the same access to a free and appropriate public education that is provided to other children. This includes the right to a preschool education.
- This law applies to all homeless students in the state of Ohio.

Who is considered a homeless student?

- Under the McKinney-Vento Act, a homeless student is defined as any child who **“lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”**
 - This includes traditional ideas of homelessness, such as:
 - Living in shelter, a car, a public space, a motel, or abandoned building.
 - It also includes other living situations that may not ordinarily be considered homelessness, such as:
 - Sharing the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
 - A child whose family has moved in with a family member or friend for these reasons is given the same educational protections as a child who fits the traditional definition of homeless.
 - A family may not identify themselves as homeless, but nevertheless their children may qualify for assistance under McKinney-Vento.



What rights do homeless students have?

- The right to remain in the school the child was attending when he became homeless.
- The right to be immediately enrolled in a new public school, even without the records normally needed for enrollment
- The right to be immediately enrolled in a new public school, even if they have missed an enrollment deadline for that school.
- The right to immediate enrollment without proof of guardianship if the homeless student does not have a parent or guardian.
- The right to transportation to and from the school that the child was attending when he became homeless.
- The right to access all programs or services for which the child is eligible (including special education, after school care, nutrition programs, etc.)
- The right to dispute any school enrollment, selection, or eligibility decision.
- All schools must have a “homeless liaison” to ensure that states comply with the McKinney-Vento Act.



What can LASC do for homeless students?

- Assist in of enrolling a homeless student at a new school.
- Ensure that schools provide transportation to and from the homeless student’s original school.
- Ensure that schools are providing a free and appropriate public education, and access to eligible services for all homeless students.
- Assist in disputing an enrollment, selection, or eligibility decision.

How to Contact LASC:

FRANKLIN & MADISON

Call (614) 241-2001 or Toll Free 1-888-246-4420
 1108 City Park Avenue, Columbus, OH 43206
 Office Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

DELAWARE, MARION, MORROW, & UNION

Call (740) 383-2161 or Toll Free 1-888-301-2411
 150 Oak Street, Marion, OH 43302
 Office Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Request Services Online at www.columbuslegalaid.org

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