

Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth (INEHCY)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Act

Who Is Homeless?

Homeless students are those who lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence. This includes students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals. The definition includes migratory students who live in the aforementioned situations. Beginning Dec. 10, 2016, “those awaiting foster care placement” are not included in the definition.

IDOE McKinney-Vento: Homeless Children and Youth Program

[DOE: McKinney-Vento: Homeless Children and Youth Program](#)

Parent/Youth Rights:

As parents raising children while trying to manage the difficulties of homelessness, the last thing you want to worry about is your children's education. The McKinney-Vento Act was created to give your children some rights as you navigate your way to a permanent housing situation. Your children's rights include:

- **The right to enroll immediately, even if you don't have all the required paperwork.** Schools normally require parents to have birth certificates, proof of residency, school records, and medical records with them when they enroll their children. If you are experiencing one of the housing situations covered by the McKinney-Vento Act, then you can enroll your children without these documents, although you may need to get some of them later.
- **The right to school placement at the school in their best interest.** Your children may go to the school they attended when they were permanently housed, also called their school of origin, even if you are not staying in that district. Alternatively, your children may attend the school where you are temporarily staying. This right lasts the entire duration of your homelessness or until the end of the school year after you achieve permanent housing.
- **The right to transportation services.** Schools must provide your children with transportation to their school, if feasible, until you get permanent housing. Parents who need this service for their children should request it from the McKinney-Vento Liaison.
- **The right to other services.** The fees for breakfast and lunch provided by the school, as well as the fees for textbooks, should be waived for your children. They also are automatically eligible for Title I services which may include before- and after-school

programs, tutoring programs, or other assistance such as graphing calculators required for math classes.

- **The right to appeal decisions regarding enrollment and services.** If the school district makes a decision about your child's school enrollment or the services that your child receives (such as transportation) that you disagree with, you have the right to appeal that decision. The school's McKinney-Vento Liaison should be contacted immediately to assist you with the appeal. While the dispute with the school district is being resolved, your child has the right to attend the school or receive the services in question.
- **The right to attend school and school activities without the fear of being singled out.** Children in unstable housing situations cannot be separated from their peers just because of their housing situation. They have the right to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities just like any other student.

Contacts for Assistance:

If you or your family are concerned about housing stability including shelter or basic needs (like food, clothing, utilities, etc.), please consider contacting the McKinney Vento Liaison at your local school district. McKinney Vento Liaisons can help you connect to resources in the community that can help you find assistance and support. McKinney Vento Liaisons also help eligible students stay connected at school through enrollment and transportation assistance as well as addressing barriers to educational success and school engagement.

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Resources:

- [Indiana 211 Food, Housing, and Other Resources Assistance](#)
- [Tip Sheet - SNAP Benefits](#)
- [Tip Sheet - SSI \(social security\) Benefits](#)
- [Tip Sheet - Trauma Informed Care](#)
- [National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty](#)
- [School House Connection](#)
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)
- [US Department of Education](#)
- [Human Trafficking FAQs](#)