

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education



For more information contact:

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

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 placements

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.

Phone: 507-316-0610
www.threeriverscap.org
TTY: MN Relay Service:
1-800-627-3529

Administrative Office
1414 North Star Drive
Zumbrota, MN 55992

Red Wing Office
614 Plum Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Faribault Office
201 South Lyndale Ave
Faribault, MN 55021

Rochester Office
300 11th Avenue NW #110
Rochester, MN 55901

Plainview Office
55049 241st Avenue
Plainview, MN 55964

Wabasha Office
Suite 120
611 Broadway Avenue
Wabasha, MN 55981

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

Homeless Education Assistance Act

RIGHTS AND PROTECTION UNDER THE
MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ACT



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 attends the school of origin, he or she has the right to **free transportation** to school

⇒ The decision about which school the student should attend 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, like strict application deadlines or admission requirements.

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

⇒ Referrals: Schools should connect students 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

