

McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act

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The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law supporting the educational rights of students who are living in emergency, temporary and/or transitional housing situations maintain academic stability and success. The federal McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to:

- Ensure educational stability for students in emergency, temporary and/or transitional housing situations.
- Ensure immediate access to school for students in emergency emergency, temporary and/or transitional housing situations.
- Appoint a liaison for students who are eligible for McKinney-Vento services.
- Make sure that students in emergency, temporary and/or transitional housing situations have access to Title 1 services.

Students in transitional situations lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (“doubled up” with friends or relatives, living in a motel or campground, living in emergency or transitional shelters, abandoned in hospitals, living in places that are not regular sleeping accommodations like a car or park etc.).

What are the educational rights of students in transitional situations:

- The right to stay in their school even if they move out of the school district.
- The right to have transportation to their “school of origin” for that school year provided or arranged by the school district.
- The right to access all school services including free school meals, services for English language learners, special education, and before/after school services.
- The right to the same opportunity to meet the same high academic achievement standards as all students.

The face of homelessness is a child. A child who may have moved three times this year, may be living with a family or in a shelter, and may have changed schools numerous times. A child in this situation may find themselves worried about how they will get their basic needs met. Our goal is to provide resources to help each student feel safe and secure, so they can focus on their learning while at school.

Pea Ridge Schools are trying to make a difference. We aim to help children and families with enrollment, transportation, and school meals. We can also assist children and families with clothing, school supplies, and connect them to resources in the community. Each year, Pea Ridge Schools identify hundreds of students, who under the M-V Act, meet the guidelines for homeless.

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Deep Poverty
- Health Problems
- Domestic Violence
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse/Neglect (unaccompanied youth)

BARRIERS TO EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

- Enrollment requirements (school records, immunizations, proof of residence, and guardianship)
- High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and education continuity
- Lack of access to programs
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.
- Poor health fatigue, hunger

WHO ARE HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

Individuals who lack a fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence such as those:

- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Living in hotels, motels, or campgrounds due to lack of affordable housing
- Children abandoned in hospitals
- Sleeping in public or private places not designed as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans
- Living with others due to lack of permanent housing as a result of economic hardship
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Unaccompanied Youth
- Migratory children living in the above situations

[For more information](#)