

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



The Act's Definition of Homeless Children and Youth

Students and Families Who Lack a Nighttime Residence Which Is:

-FIXED

-REGULAR

-ADEQUATE

There Also Needs to be a Precipitating Event Which Occurred Beyond the Family's Control



Who Is Considered Homeless?

Students Who Are:

Living With Others Due to the Loss of Housing or Other Hardship

Abandoned

Staying In Cars, Tents/ Campgrounds, Motels/Hotels, Parks,

Buildings or Are Unsheltered

Residing in Homeless or Domestic Violence Shelters or have Been

Abandoned In Hospitals



What Can Cause Homelessness?

Many Factors Can Cause Homelessness:

Financial Hardship

Eviction


Natural Disaster (Flood, Fire, Mold)

Domestic Violence

Parental Incarceration

Parental Abandonment

Parent/Child Conflict



What Protections Does the McKinney-Vento Act Afford Student and Their Families?

The Removal of All Barriers at the Time Of Registration (i.e. the Lack of Proper Paperwork, Immunizations Records, Lack of Transportation, etc.)

Free Meals (Breakfast and Lunches) at School Without Application

Transportation Assistance Either Within or Beyond District Borders (School Districts Are Required to Work Together and Are Responsible to Provide at Least 50/50 Assistance

Title 1/Homeless Set Aside Funds to Help Students With Specific Costs Related to Their School Experience or Medical Need

Due Process During and In the Event of a Dispute Resolution

In Short---EDUCATIONAL STABILITY



How Can Title One/Set Aside Funds Be Used?

Medical Needs (Dental, Vision, Etc.)


Clothing Related to School Uniforms, Gym Classes, Etc.

School Supplies

Tutoring

Before/After School Programs

Counseling



What Should Staff Do If They Suspect a Student Is Homeless?


Report the Concern to the School Principal, Counselor, Nurse, Main Office Staff and/or District Homeless Liaison

Maintain an Open Mind and Heart

Be Empathetic/Non-Judgemental

Maintain Confidentiality

Remain Vigilant as to the Potential for Student Homelessness



Why Does McKinney-Vento and Educational Stability Matter?

School is Often the Safest and Most Familiar Place for Children and Families Who Find Themselves in Transitional Circumstances

Students Who Change Schools Often Can Run the Risk of : Poor Academic Progress, Behavioral “Acting Out”, Attendance Issues, School Disengagement, Lower Self Esteem, and the Potential for Dropping Out

Students Perform Better When Their Level of Stress Is Reduced and They Feel Supported in Their School Communities.

Parent Engagement Is More Likely When Schools Work Collaboratively with Families.



Consider This--

How Do You Think Your Students Feel When They Don't Know Where They Will Lay Their Heads At Night?

What Kind Of Student Would You Be If You Didn't Know Where You'd Be Staying And/Or Didn't Have Any Of Your Belongings?

How Successful Would You Be as a Student if the McKinney- Vento Federal Homeless Assistance Act Didn't Exist?

This is Why the Protections Afforded By McKinney-Vento Matter!!!!



Methacton School District Board Policy

Policy 251: Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care, and Other Education Instability

- <https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/meth/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CVFKZP545181>



How to contact the Homeless Liaison for Methacton School District

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