

Right to Know Homelessness

The following are helpful conversation starters when facing homelessness.

The **McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act** is a federal act that ensures assistance to homeless families as they navigate the public education system.

“Homeless students” include students who:

- Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- Share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.;
- Reside in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Live in emergency or transitional shelter (including DC transitional housing);
- Are abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care placement;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian AND meet any of the above circumstances; OR
- Are migratory children who are living in the circumstances described above.

Based on the best interest of the student,
The LEA shall ...

Assist the student in obtaining necessary immunizations, medical records, uniforms, or other necessities for school.

Continue the student's education at the student's current school.

Immediately enroll the student in the neighborhood school if not currently enrolled in a school.

Immediately enroll the homeless student even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

For more information, visit
<https://osse.dc.gov/service/education-homeless-children-and-youth-program>.

The District of Columbia ensures that all homeless children and youth will have access to and be enabled to participate fully in all educational programs for which they are eligible and interested.



Phone: (202) 741-4692
Email: student.advocate@dc.gov
Web Address: studentadvocate.dc.gov