

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The McKinney-Vento Act covers children and youth who don't have a fixed, adequate and regular nighttime residence, including living...

- in a shelter;
- in a motel, hotel or campground;
- in a car, bus or train station, an abandoned building, or some other inadequate accommodations; or
- with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason (also known as doubled up).

This includes migrant and unaccompanied youth living in any of the above situations.

Who are Unaccompanied homeless youth?

Youth who are out of the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian and lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing have all the rights of other homeless students.

Students who lack housing have the right to:

- attend the school they attended when they went homeless or the school they last attended (known as the school of origin);
- get transportation to the school of origin even if it is in another district;
- immediately enroll and attend the local school even if they do not have the required documentation;
- to appeal district enrollment decisions;
- access special education services if the student has a current IEP;
- participate in any school activity that is available to other students;
- free school meals.

Are homeless preschoolers covered by McKinney-Vento?

Preschool children living in homeless situations have the same rights as other homeless children and youth.

Do homeless children and youth have access to the same services as other children in the community?

Homeless students are to be provided services and education programs comparable to those received by other students and for which they meet eligibility criteria, such as:

- Title 1 services and programming;
- programs for students with disabilities;
- programs for students learning English;
- vocational or technical programs;
- gifted and talented programs, and
- school nutrition programs.

Who can help at the school district?

Every school district must designate a homeless education liaison to help children and youth who lack housing participate in school.

Contact information for the liaison and other useful organizations can be found in this brochure.

Other Helpful Contacts

National Center for Homeless Education

Toll-free helpline: 1-800-308-2145

General number: 1-800-755-3277

Fax: 336-315-7457

Helpline e-mail: homeless@serve.org

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

73 Buffum Street, Lynn, MA 01902

Office: 781-595-7570

Fax: 781-595-7574

Email: info@mahomeless.org

Website: <http://www.mahomeless.org/>

Project Bread

Food Source Hotline

Mon-Fri 8AM-7PM, Sat 10AM-2PM

1-800-645-8333, TTY 1-800-377-1292

projectbread.org/get-help/foodsource-hotline

SNAP assistance

gettingfoodstamps.org/

Domestic Violence Programs

SafeLink: 1-877-785-2020 (toll-free)

SafeLink TTY: 1-877-521-2601

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline:

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

Runaway or Homeless Youth

For information, referrals, and crisis intervention, contact the National Runaway Safeline at 1-800-RUNAWAY (800-786-2929)

District Homeless Liaison

Name:

Phone Number:



Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148-4906

Contact Information:

781-338-3700

compliance@doe.mass.edu

Website:

www.doe.mass.edu/my

McKinney-Vento Act

Is your family living...



In a shelter



In a motel or campground



In a vehicle or public place or



**With other people due to loss of
housing or economic hardship?**

*Your school-age children may qualify
for certain rights and protections under
the federal McKinney-Vento Act.*



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION

Office for the Education of Homeless
Children and Youth