

## Children's Rights Under McKinney-Vento

- ◆ Attend the school of origin (school student attended before becoming homeless or the last school attended).
- ◆ Transfer to the school closest to your current temporary location.
- ◆ Receive transportation to and from the school of origin.
- ◆ Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records normally required for enrollment, such as birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization records. School Personnel will help in obtaining records.



## Unaccompanied Youth

A student is considered an unaccompanied homeless youth if he or she is under the age of 18, experiencing homelessness, and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Unaccompanied homeless youth are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act and entitled to the above listed rights.

### What will I need to enroll my child?

The McKinney-Vento Act requires that children experiencing homelessness be enrolled in school without delay. When registering, parents will be asked for school records, birth certificate, and immunization records. If the parent does not have all these items, the child will be enrolled, and the school will work with you to obtain these documents.

### How will my child get to school?

Transportation will be provided for students to the school of origin or the school within the residential boundaries, except for students who live within walking distance.

### How do I ensure my child receives services provided by the McKinney-Vento Program (MVP) office?

Parents must complete the MVP Student Services form each year that the child continues to live in temporary housing. Failure to complete this form prior to the start of each school year can result in a delay of services, to include a delay in transportation services.

### Who do I call if there is a delay in enrollment?

If you have questions or concerns regarding enrollment, call the Office of Title I McKinney-Vento program at 410-809-6194.

# McKinney-Vento Program



**Harford County Public Schools**  
**A.A. Roberty Building**  
**102 S. Hickory Avenue**  
**Bel Air, MD 21014**  
**410-809-6194**



*Optimizing the early years of children's lives is the best investment we can make as a society to ensure their future success"*

— Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development

## McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, students are considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, even if the temporary residence is outside Harford County. Students living under the following conditions are considered homeless:

- ◆ Living with friends or relatives due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- ◆ Living in motels, hotels, or trailer parks used to house homeless families
- ◆ Living in an emergency shelter or transitional shelter
- ◆ Living in camping grounds
- ◆ Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, buses, or train stations
- ◆ Unaccompanied youth who may be living in a shelter, inadequate housing, or denied housing by family



## School of Origin

Moving from one school to another can be very upsetting for children. The law is designed to increase school stability for students by maintaining students in the school of origin. The school of origin is the school the child attended when he or she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. When deciding if it is in the best interest for the child to stay in the school of origin, consider the following questions:

- ◆ How old is the child?
- ◆ How permanent is the current living situation? Will the child be returning to the boundary of the school of origin, or will the child stay near the current address?
- ◆ Will the child have difficulty transitioning? An older child who feels very connected to the school of origin and is going to graduate soon may have a harder time changing school.
- ◆ How anxious is the child due to the move? Would changing schools be overwhelming?
- ◆ Would changing schools cause the child to fall behind in school and result in poor grades?
- ◆ How much time would the child spend commuting to the school of origin?
- ◆ Does the student have special needs that impact school placement or bear consideration for transportation?

## Appeal Process

If a parent or unaccompanied youth disagrees with a decision regarding eligibility, the school of enrollment, and/or services, they have the right to appeal. Whenever services, in whole or part are denied, the parent or unaccompanied youth shall receive a Denial of Services letter and an Appeal Notice Form. The first appeal must be filed with the Homeless Education Liaison within ten (10) calendar days of the decision of the PPW.

The Homeless Education Liaison shall review and respond within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the appeal. If the parent is dissatisfied with the Homeless Education Liaison's appeal decision, or if a decision is not provided within ten (10) calendar days, an appeal may be filed with the Executive Director of Student Support Services. The Executive Director of Student Support Services shall review the matter and issue a written decision within 15 calendar days. During the appeal process, the student shall remain enrolled in the current school.

