

McKinney-Vento Homeless Program

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, indicates that State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must ensure that homeless children and youths have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as is provided to other children and youths. The SEA and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in the State must review and revise any laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths. Homeless students must also have access to the education and other services that they need to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held.

Eligibility

Students might qualify for assistance through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Act if your family lives in the following:

- In an emergency or transitional shelter
- In a motel/hotel or campground due to no other viable accommodations being available
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus/train station
- Share housing with other people due to loss of housing, financial difficulty, or other similar hardships
- Your family lacks a fixed, regular, and/or adequate nighttime residence

Who can I contact regarding my child's education?

1. Every school district has a homeless education liaison.

• Haley Guidish (Nurse) is the liaison for Raccoon Grade School. Their contact information is listed below:

Haley Guidish - hguidish@raccoonschool.org - (618) 532-7329 ext. 1123

2. Talk with your child's teacher once enrolled in school. Maintain regular communication (in person meetings, phone, email, etc.) to discuss your child's academic progress.

3. Meet with the nurse to discuss interventions and services available to assist your child with any challenges they are facing.

4. All district staff are McKinney Vento trained, care about your child, and can provide valuable assistance. Please reach out to them as needed with any questions or concerns.

McKinney-Vento Act

Who is eligible? All children and youth who don't have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living:

In an **emergency** or transitional **shelter**, with friends or relatives due to loss of housing or economic hardship (also known as **doubled up**).

In a **motel, hotel, campground, car, an abandoned building or other places not intended for nighttime residence**.

As an **Unaccompanied Youth**, including youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

In a situation that is **insufficient** for meeting both the **physical** and **psychological needs** typically met in home environment. Such as infestations, lack of utilities, etc.

Rights of Eligible Students

Immediately enroll in school even if the student lacks documentation regarding residency, guardianship, immunizations, or school records.

Attend the school of residence or the school of origin.

Remain enrolled in the selected school for the duration of the homelessness or through the academic year if they become permanently housed.

Obtain transportation assistance to school of origin.

Participate in any school activity that is available to other students.

Receive fee waivers and free school meals without completing an application.



Students & Families Can Choose From:

→ The school they attended when permanently housed (known as the school of origin).

→ The last school they attended (also known as the school of origin).

→ The school located in the attendance area where they are temporarily living (known as the school of residence).

Local District Liaison:

Contact RGS Liasion
Nurse Haley
(618) 532-7329

