**McKinney-Vento Act**

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act provides a definition of homeless children and youths to be used by state and local educational agencies (LEAs).  It defines homeless children and youths to be those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**If your family lives in any of the following situations:**

* In a shelter
* In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
* In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
* Doubled up 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.

Please complete the [McKinney-Vento Student Survey](https://www.cmsdschools.org/cms/lib/MS01910488/Centricity/Domain/87/McKinney-Vento%20Student%20Survey.pdf) for each of your children in order to begin the process of determining if your child qualifies for these rights and protections.

Your Rights

**Your eligible children have the right to:**

* Receive a free, appropriate public education.
* Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
* Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
* Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.

\* If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

* Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
* Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children’s needs.