

# Information for School-Age Youth



## IF YOU ARE STAYING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter or transitional housing

In a motel, hotel, or campground  
because you don't have another  
safe and stable place to stay

In a car, park, public place,  
abandoned building, or bus or  
train station

In someone else's house because  
you lost your housing or are going  
through a hard time financially and  
don't have another safe and stable  
place to stay

You might qualify for help  
at school under the federal  
McKinney-Vento Act, even if  
you are on your own and not  
with a parent or guardian.

## If you qualify under the McKinney-Vento Act, you have the right to:

**Go to public school for free** and  
participate fully in school activities.

**Enroll in school immediately** and go  
to class, even if you don't have the  
documents normally required for  
school. The school where you are  
enrolled is responsible for helping  
you get any documents needed to  
keep attending classes.

**Enroll in the local school near where  
you're staying or continue going  
to your school of origin** (the school  
you went to when you last had a safe  
and stable place to live or the school  
where you were last enrolled), based  
on where you think would be best  
for you to go to school.

If the school district thinks that  
where you want to go to school is

not in your best interest, the district  
has to tell you in writing why it thinks  
another school would be better for  
you and give you the opportunity to  
appeal its decision if you want to do  
that. The district also has to connect  
you with the McKinney-Vento  
district liaison, who has to help you  
understand your right to appeal.

**Get transportation to and from  
your school of origin**, if you keep  
going to this school and ask for  
transportation.

**Get help at school** that is similar  
to the help other students get,  
based on what you might need.  
These services could include  
transportation, academic help,  
and free meals at school.

**If you think you might qualify**, contact the district McKinney-Vento  
local liaison or the McKinney-Vento state coordinator to find out  
what help might be available for you at school.



McKinney-Vento Local Liaison

McKinney-Vento State Coordinator

You also can contact the National Center for Homeless Education  
if you have questions about your education:

1-305-306-8495 • [NCHE.helpline@safalpartners.com](mailto:NCHE.helpline@safalpartners.com) • <http://nche.ed.gov>