



McKinney-Vento Homeless Program

December 2019

The McKinney-Vento Homeless program removes barriers to learning for homeless children and youth. All homeless children and youth will be served using all the resources available to the district.

Definition of Homeless Children and Youth

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless children and youths as those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The law provides several examples of situations that meet the definition. This includes children and youths:

- Sharing housing due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate housing;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Living in a public or private place not designated for, or normally used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar places; and/or
- Living in one of the above circumstances and who are migratory.

Enrollment

The terms ‘enroll’ and ‘enrollment’ are defined to mean attending school and participating fully in school activities.

The school selected shall immediately enroll the child/youth, even if the child or youth lacks records normally required for enrollment. Records will immediately be requested from the previous school.

Guardianship

For purposes of school placement, any parent, guardian or person in loco parentis who has legal or physical custody of a homeless child or youth shall enroll that child or youth directly into Mosinee School District.

Homeless students who do not live with their parents or guardians may enroll themselves in school.

Residency

A homeless child or youth is a resident if the child is personally present somewhere within the district with a purpose to remain but not necessarily to remain permanently.

The child or youth shall be considered a resident when living with a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis not solely for school purposes or for participation in extracurricular activities.

1. Homeless children, youth and unaccompanied youth will be enrolled immediately, even if they lack immunizations and/or records ordinarily required for enrollment. Documents and records that can not be used for enrollment delays include but are not limited to:
 - A. transcripts/school records
 - B. immunization, health, medical records
 - C. birth certificates
 - D. proof of residency
 - E. proof of guardianship
2. Once the student is enrolled it is the responsibility of the school to contact the previous school and request records.
3. The building level school counselor and/or principal should be contacted as soon as possible to assist the family with supplies and other needs.

School Selection

Placement in a school shall, according to the child's best interest:

- For elementary students (including 4K), continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year, or for the duration of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year.
- Enroll the child or youth in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

In determining the best interests of the child or youth, to the extent feasible the child or youth will be kept in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, for the duration of homelessness.

In the case of unaccompanied youth, the district's homeless liaison will assist in placement or enrollment decisions considering the requests of such unaccompanied youth.

The school of origin means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. The school of origin also includes the designated receiving school at the next level.

The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parents or guardian or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

Lunch Waiver

1. When a student is identified as homeless they are automatically waived with or without paperwork. This is at the INITIAL point of identification.
2. The free status stays with that student the entire school year until the student is "permanently" housed. Then they must complete the paperwork/application.

3. The homeless liaison will send necessary documentation to the staff member in the Business Office who coordinates free and reduced lunch in order to process the waiver.
4. Staff in the Business Office will be responsible for communicating with food service in order to process the waiver.
5. The homeless liaison will notify the school contact to confirm that the free lunch paperwork and waiver has been processed by the food service provider.

Fee Waiver

Student fees for the purposes of serving homeless children include but are not limited to: fees for field trips, fees for Art courses/projects, Foods courses, Technical Education courses/projects, and yearly class fees. These fees are to be automatically waived. The waiving of fees will be done directly by the school Homeless Liaison.

To encourage all homeless students to participate in all school activities, payment of all student fees will be waived if the student is identified as homeless.

Comparable Services

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, such as:

- School supplies
- Transportation services
- Educational services for which the child or youth meets eligibility criteria such as ELL or special education programs
- Programs for “At Risk” students
- Programs for gifted and talented students
- School nutrition programs
- Title I services

Transportation

1. At the request of a homeless child's parent/guardian or the homeless liaison in the cases of unaccompanied youth, transportation to the school of origin will be provided to homeless children and youth, following best interest provisions (outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act under Local Education Agency Requirements).
 - In order for transportation to be set up, the homeless liaison will determine with the family the best means of transportation.
 - The homeless liaison will arrange for transportation.
 - When a student obtains permanent housing, transportation to the school of origin must be provided until the end of the academic year, if it is in the student's best interest to remain in that school. At this point, parents/guardians may choose to enroll the child in the school in the attendance area in which they live.
2. When the child, youth or unaccompanied homeless student's temporary residence and school of origin are two different school districts, the districts will collaborate on the method and cost of transportation. The districts will share the cost of transportation.
3. Refugee students who are not independently housed may be considered homeless unless families choose to not be considered so. The homeless liaison/interpreters will discuss McKinney-Vento with families to determine if they are homeless. It will be determined based on where the student resides and where the program is for the refugee students if transportation is necessary. If it is deemed unsafe or too far for a non-English speaking homeless student to walk or arrange for their own transportation, then they will be transported the same as other homeless students. The guidelines listed above will be followed in those situations as well.