

McKinney-Vento Identification & Eligibility

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North Carolina Homeless Education Program (NCHEP)

Charter School Learning Series
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Agenda

- Requirements in the McKinney-Vento Act
- Building awareness in your school and community
- Identifying eligible students
- Collecting and submitting data
- Other requirements & best practices



Written in Law

“ensure that homeless children and youths are *identified* by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies” [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(i)]



Building Awareness



School
Website



Distributing
Posters



Professional
Development



Collaboration



Newsletter



Other

Building Awareness: School Website

LEAs are **required** to have information about the McKinney-Act posted on their website.

The following should be included:

- Contact information for local liaison
- Overview of the McKinney-Vento Act
- Who is eligible for services under the law
- Students and parents/guardians' rights
- Contact information for state coordinator's office

Building Awareness: Posters

LEAs are required to have McKinney-Vento posters in their school building(s).

Information for School-Aged Youth Información para los Jóvenes de Edad Escolar



IF YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:
In a shelter, motel, campground, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, or some other inadequate accommodation
Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
Then, you may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Eligible students have the right to:

- Receive the free, appropriate public education to which they are entitled.
- Be enrolled in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Be enrolled in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documentation.
- Enroll in the local school near where they're living, 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 their preference and is in the best interest of your child. If the school district believes that the school selected by the student is not in his/her best interest, then the district must provide the student with a written explanation of its position and offer him/her the opportunity to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to all other students, according to the student's needs.

If you believe you may be eligible, contact the local liaison (see below) to find out what services and supports may be available.

District Local Liaison and Contact Information:
El Contacto del Distrito:

State Coordinator:
El Coordinador estatal:
Lisa Phillips

NORTH CAROLINA HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM
The SECC's Center of Civic Excellence
<http://www.secc.org/nep>

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
The SECC's Center of Civic Excellence
<http://www.nspibookkeepingprogram.mckinneyvento.com>

Information for Parents Información para los Padres



IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:
In a shelter, motel, campground, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, or some other inadequate accommodation
Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
Then, your school-aged children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Si su familia vive en cualquiera de las siguientes situaciones:
En un albergue, un motel, un sitio para acampar, un parque, un edificio abandonado, una estación de trenes o de autobuses, u otra situación inadecuada
Compartiendo la vivienda de otras personas debido a la pérdida de su casa o a una dificultad económica
Entonces, sus niños de edad escolar podrían calificar para recibir ciertos derechos y protecciones bajo la ley federal McKinney-Vento.

Si sus hijos son elegibles, tienen derecho a:

- Recibir una educación pública gratuita y apropiada.
- Inscribirse en la escuela inmediatamente, aunque fallen documentos normalmente requeridos para la inscripción.
- Inscribirse, asistir a la escuela, y participar completamente en todas las actividades escolares mientras que la escuela obtiene los documentos necesarios.
- Asistir a la escuela local o a la escuela de origen, según la preferencia del estudiante y lo que sea mejor para él/ella. La escuela de origen es la escuela a la cual el estudiante asistió cuando tenía una residencia permanente, o es la última escuela en la cual estaba inscrito. Si el distrito escolar cree que la escuela que el estudiante escoge no es la mejor para él/ella, el distrito tiene que darle al estudiante una explicación escrita de su posición y ofrecerle la oportunidad de apelar su decisión.
- Recibir transporte a/de la escuela de origen, si se solicita.
- Recibir servicios educacionales comparables a los que están provistos para otros estudiantes, según la necesidad del estudiante.

Si cree que sus hijos pueden ser elegibles, hable con el oficial para la educación de los niños y jóvenes sin hogar del distrito escolar (información de contacto a continuación) para averiguar los servicios y ayudas que podrían estar disponibles.

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Building Awareness: Professional Development

Homeless liaisons are **required** to provide professional development (PD) to staff on the McKinney-Vento Act annually.

PD Best Practices

- Train all stakeholders
- Keep documentation of participants
- Include McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness
- Provide staff with resources
- Share internal procedures for contacting the homeless liaison

PD Resources

- [NCHEP LEA Staff Training Template](#)
- [NCHE's Local Liaison PD Strategies: Part A](#) (Internal)
- [NCHE's Local Liaison PD Strategies: Part B](#) (External)
- [Common Signs of Homelessness](#)

Building Awareness: Collaboration

Internal

- Training internal staff
- Provide program updates with staff
- Meet regularly with homeless education stakeholders
 - Title I Coordinator
 - Finance Department
 - Transportation Director
 - MTSS Team
 - Other

External

- Provide information about McKinney-Vento Program to local agencies
- Build partnerships with community agencies
 - Housing Resources
 - DHSS
 - Food Pantries
 - Faith Based Organizations
 - Other

Identifying Students

LEAs are responsible for identifying the following students:



School-aged students who meet the criteria of homeless as defined in the McKinney-Vento Act.



Preschool-aged (Birth - 5 yrs.) siblings of an identified student, who is living in the same or another qualifying McKinney-Vento situation.



School-aged, out-of-school sibling of an identified student, who is living in the same or another qualifying McKinney-Vento situation.

Determine Eligibility

Individuals who lack a **fixed**, **regular**, and **adequate** nighttime residence.



Fixed residence: A residence that is stationary, permanent and not subject to change.



Regular residence: A residence that is used on a regular basis (i.e., nightly).



Adequate residence: Is sufficient for meeting the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

Determine Eligibility

Homeless liaisons are to assess students' *current* living situations to determine eligibility under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Resources for Determining Eligibility:

- [McKinney-Vento Eligibility Flowchart](#)
- [NCHE's UHY Eligibility Flowchart](#)
- [Questions to Ask When Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility](#)
- [NCHE's Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services](#)

Data Collection & Submission

All LEAs are **required** to submit homeless data, even if they have “0” students to report.

Best practices for collecting and submitting data:

- Keep accurate records
- Utilize internal tracking tools
- Input students into Infinite Campus as identifications occur
- Visit NCHPEP’s [Data Collection](#) webpage
- Submit data by deadline: **May 31, 2026**

Documentation Tools



Residency Questionnaire: Form used in school's enrollment packet that includes housing questions to screen for possible homeless situations



Intake Form: Form used to gather student details such as

- Demographic information
- Living situation
- Siblings
- Resources needed



Tracking Tool: Excel sheet to keep documentation of identified students' data

Questions

Resources

North Carolina Homeless Education Program (NCHEP)

<https://hepnc.uncg.edu/>

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

<https://nche.ed.gov/>

[Serving Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Charter Schools](#)

U.S. Department of Education

[EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)

Federal Law

[McKinney-Vento Act](#)

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