

### **What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?**

Current McKinney-Vento legislation stems from the original Act that was signed into law in 1987 and strengthened by reauthorization in 2002.

McKinney-Vento supports students who are homeless by providing them with the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there. Students who are homeless must be given access to the same public education provided to other students.
- Continue in the school they attended before becoming homeless or the school last attended if that is their choice and feasible. The school district's local liaison for homeless education must assist you, if needed, and offer you the right to appeal a decision regarding your choice of school if it goes against your wishes.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before they became homeless or the school last attended, if a request is made for such transportation and transportation is feasible.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with students who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program due to the fact that they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without providing a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of their choice even while the school and student who is homeless seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other students served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

### **When is a student eligible for support under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?**

A student is eligible if they live in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because they cannot find or afford housing

### **Who determines eligibility?**

When a parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, or other school employee becomes aware of a student who will be, or is currently homeless he/she should contact the school district's Homeless Liaison at 303-349-9463. The school district's Homeless Liaison will determine whether the student's current living situation meets criteria for support under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The school district's Homeless Liaison will work in concert with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth to determine the most appropriate services for the child.

### **What is the McKinney-Vento process in Douglas County Schools?**

Once a student's eligibility for support under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is determined, the district's Homeless Liaison will:

- Contact the family to discuss their educational rights, the McKinney-Vento process, what district resources would be appropriate and possible referrals to community entities.
- Contact the registrar of the student's home school to ensure that the enrollment records reflect the student's current living situation.
- Contact the nutrition services coordinator to ensure that students eligible for support receive free and reduced meal services (lunch & breakfast if possible).

### **What are the responsibilities of the school district and how are they being met?**

**The school district will be responsible for: Providing access to school and appropriate services**

- ✓ A school district liaison has been appointed and assists schools in identifying and enrolling students who are experiencing homelessness and in helping them access education and support services.
- ✓ Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is posted throughout the district.
- ✓ Awareness of staff is promoted by trainings for registrars, counselors, mental health, and the Directors of Schools.

**Reducing school transfers and enhancing educational stability and continuity**

- ✓ Homeless Liaison works collaboratively with transportation officials to keep students in their school of origin to the extent feasible, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of parent/guardians.
- ✓ Homeless Liaison ensures the right to attend school of origin for the entire duration of homelessness and that children who become housed during the academic year may continue their education in the school of origin for the remainder of the year.

**Strengthening parental choice and involvement**

- ✓ Homeless Liaison ensures that parents are fully informed of the enrollment options and educational opportunities available to their children.
- ✓ School administrators provide written explanation to parents should disputes arise over school selection or school enrollment and will refer to parents to the Homeless Liaison to mediate such disputes

**Ensuring the educational rights of unaccompanied youth**

- ✓ Immediately enroll unaccompanied youth.
- ✓ Maintain unaccompanied youth in school of origin to the extent feasible, unless this is against their wishes
- ✓ Immediately enroll youth in the school to which they seek enrollment pending resolution of any disputes regarding such placement.

***What other resources are available for youth who may be experiencing homelessness?***

- **Douglas County Human Services**  
**303.688.4825**  
Food Stamps, Medicaid, Emergency Assistance, Energy Assistance, Veterans Services, and Financial Support
- **Tri County Health Department**  
**303.663.7650**  
Immunizations, WIC, Family Planning, Women's Wellness
- **Douglas Elbert Task Force**  
**303.688.1114**  
Emergency Assistance, Food Bank, Clothing Bank
- **Parker Task Force**  
**303.841.3460**  
Emergency Assistance, Food Bank, Clothing Bank
- **Arapahoe/Douglas Works**  
**303.688.4825 Ext. 5037**  
Employment and job Search Assistance
- **Women's Crisis Center**  
**303.688.8484**  
Domestic Violence Services for Women and Children
- **Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health**  
**303.797.9346**  
Mental health services provided on a sliding fee scale
- **Doctors Care**  
**303.730.1313**  
Medical care on a sliding fee scale, can include the Doctor's Care Program, lab services, hospital inpatient care and prescriptions.
- **Douglas County Housing Partnership**  
**303.814.2965**  
Education, down payment assistance, and housing referrals
- **Air Academy Federal Credit Union**  
**303.688.8500**  
Banking services at reduced fees
- **CSU Cooperative Extension**  
**720.733.6930**  
Information and resources for planning low-cost meals, budgeting, managing credit, and developing financial skills

**For further information please contact  
the Douglas County School District  
Homeless Liaison,  
Jason Germain, Ph.D.  
303.349.9463.**

**This pamphlet can also be found on  
the Douglas County School District  
website:  
[www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)**

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**THE MCKINNEY-VENTO  
HOMELESS ASSISTANCE  
ACT RESOURCE GUIDE**



**Douglas County**  
School District

*Learn today. Lead tomorrow.*

**Douglas County Schools  
Instructional Support Services  
620 Wilcox Street  
Castle Rock, CO 80104  
(303) 387-0080**

Please read this pamphlet carefully to ensure complete understanding of the administration of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.