



# Education For Homeless Children and Youth (McKinney-Vento) 2012-2013 Fact Sheet

## Who qualifies as homeless?

According to Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, the term "homeless children and youth" means:

A. Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1) [“one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.”] and

B. Includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii)."

## What does fixed, adequate, and regular mean?

A **fixed residence** is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.

A **regular residence** is one which is used on a regular (i.e. nightly) basis.

An **adequate residence** is one which is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

## Transportation

**Title I, Part A Homeless set asides may not be used to transport homeless students to and from school.**

## Coordinating transportation between districts

If the student is living outside the school of origin's LEA, the LEA where the student is living and the school of origin's LEA must determine how to divide the responsibility and cost of providing transportation, or they must share the responsibility and cost equally.

## Documentation of free meal eligibility for homeless children

USDA guidance memo states:

“To expedite the delivery of nutritional benefits, school officials may accept documentation that the children are homeless from the local educational liaison or directors of homeless shelters where the children reside.

Documentation to substantiate free meal eligibility must consist of the child's name or a list of names, effective date(s), and the signature of the local educational liaison or the director of the homeless shelter. This documentation is acceptable in lieu of a free and reduced price meal application.

To implement these expedited procedures, school officials must work closely with the educational liaison and directors of homeless shelters to ensure that children are provided free meal benefits as promptly as possible.”

## Helpful websites

- <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=372> KSDE Homeless Website
- <http://www.serve.org/nche> NCHE National Center for Homeless Education
- <http://www.naehcy.org> National Association for the Education of Homeless Students and Youth
- <http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5u9Ffi4kx30%3d&tabid=2508&mid=12822> Guidance for Reporting Homeless Students in KIDS



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## What a district must know:

- Designate a liaison
- Set aside funds in Title I for homeless education
- Report numbers of homeless students annually to KSDE
- Remove all barriers to enrollment, attendance, and access to success in school

### Homeless students—

- May not be segregated
- Must be transported to and from school of origin
- Must be enrolled immediately
- Must be placed according to the “best interest” of the student.
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## Each school district is required to have a Homeless Liaison. The responsibilities of the Liaison are:

### Ensure that-

- students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
- children and youth in homeless situations are identified
- homeless youth and their families receive eligible services
- students receive free breakfast and lunch
- parents or guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to children and given meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
- parents or guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of transportation services and assisted in accessing transportation
- enrollment disputes are mediated according to McKinney-Vento
- Public notice of rights are posted

### Assist in—

- enrolling students and accessing school services
- obtaining immunization or medical records
- informing parents, school personnel and others of rights of the homeless
- working with school personnel to resolve disputes
- coordinating transportation services
- collaborating and coordinating with the State Coordinator and school personnel responsible for providing services to students

## How are Homeless Students counted?

Homeless students are reported through the KIDS (Kansas Individual Data on Students). **New Field=D36 starting 2012-2013 school year.**

- 0 = Not a homeless student
- 1 = Accompanied homeless student doubled up (e.g., with relatives, living with another family)
- 2 = Accompanied Homeless student stayed in hotel/motel
- 4 = Accompanied homeless student stayed in shelters, transitional housing, or is awaiting foster care
- 5 = Accompanied homeless student was unsheltered (e.g. car, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned buildings)
- 6 = Unaccompanied homeless student doubled up (e.g., with relatives, living with another family)
- 7 = Unaccompanied homeless student stayed in hotel/motel
- 8 = Unaccompanied homeless student stayed in shelters, transitional housing, or is awaiting foster care
- 9 = Unaccompanied homeless student was unsheltered (e.g. car, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned buildings)

## Who is an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth?

The term “unaccompanied homeless youth” includes youth in homeless situations who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Unaccompanied homeless youth have the same rights as other students experiencing homelessness.

## List of school districts with McKinney Vento Grants:

- USD 233 Olathe
- USD 259 Wichita
- USD 261 Haysville
- USD 290 Ottawa
- USD 383 Manhattan-Ogden
- USD 457 Garden City
- USD 475 Geary County
- USD 500 Kansas City
- USD 501 Topeka

## Who Does One Contact if One Has Questions?

- Tate Toedman 785-296-6714
- [ttoedman@ksde.org](mailto:ttoedman@ksde.org)