

## **McKinney-Vento Act**

### **Education for Homeless Children and Youth**



“Homeless children and youth” is a broadly defined term under the McKinney-Vento Act.<sup>i</sup> It refers to any student who lacks “...a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence.”

For the purposes of education, the Act further clarifies that a homeless student is one whose living situation is described as any of the following:

- **Living in an “unsheltered location”**
  - “...children and youths 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”
  - “children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings”
- **Living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing**
- **Living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground—only if due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations**
- **Living with another family or “sharing the housing of others”—only if due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason**

If you suspect that a student may meet the McKinney-Vento definition of “homeless,” please contact your school health secretary, counselor, social worker, or the Director of Student Services. There are certain protections for eligible students and families, and assistance is available to help meet their needs.

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<sup>i</sup> Definitions taken from the McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C. 11435(2); for more information, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf>.