**Student Rights Regarding McKinney-Vento Act**

* **The right to enroll immediately, even if you don't have all the required paperwork.** Schools normally require parents to have birth certificates, proof of residency, school records, and medical records with them when they enroll their children. If you are experiencing one of the housing situations covered by the McKinney-Vento Act, then you can enroll your children without these documents, although you may need to get some of them later.
* **The right to school placement at the school in their best interest.** Your children may go to the school they attended when they were permanently housed, also called their school of origin, even if you are not staying in that district. Alternatively, your children may attend the school where you are temporarily staying. This right lasts the entire duration of your homelessness or until the end of the school year after you achieve permanent housing.
* **The right to transportation services.** Schools must provide your children with transportation to their school, if feasible, until you get permanent housing. Parents who need this service for their children should request it from the McKinney-Vento Liaison.
* **The right to other services.** The fees for breakfast and lunch provided by the school, as well as the fees for textbooks, should be waived for your children. They also are automatically eligible for Title I services which may include before- and after-school programs, tutoring programs, or other assistance such as graphing calculators required for math classes.
* **The right to appeal decisions regarding enrollment and services.** If the school district makes a decision about your child's school enrollment or the services that your child receives (such as transportation) that you disagree with, you have the right to appeal that decision. The school's McKinney-Vento Liaison should be contacted immediately to assist you with the appeal. While the dispute with the school district is being resolved, your child has the right to attend the school or receive the services in question.
* **The right to attend school and school activities without the fear of being singled out.** Children in unstable housing situations cannot be separated from their peers just because of their housing situation. They have the right to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities just like any other student.

**Requirements for Schools**

The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for homeless students. They include waiving certain requirements such as proof of residency when students are enrolling and allowing categorical eligibility for certain services, such as free textbooks. The Act also states:

* Homeless students may attend their school of origin or the school where they are temporarily residing;
* Homeless students must be provided a written statement of their rights when they enroll and at least two times per year;
* Homeless students may enroll without school, medical, or similar records;
* Homeless students have a right to transportation to school;
* Students must be provided a statement explaining why they are denied any service or enrollment;
* Students must receive services, such as transportation, while disputes are being settled;
* Students are automatically eligible for Title I services;
* School districts must reserve a portion of Title IA funds to serve homeless students;
* School districts must review and revise policies that provide barriers to homeless students;
* Schools must post information in the community regarding the rights of homeless students, in schools and other places that homeless families may frequent; and
* School districts must identify a McKinney-Vento Liaison to assist students.