

Information for Parents

If your family lives 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 you cannot find or afford housing

Then, your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

Your children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. If a school sends your child to a school other than the one you request, the school must provide you with a written explanation and offer you the right to appeal the decision.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Children cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your children.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education (see phone number below) for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school. (Or, someone at a shelter, social services office, or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact.)
- Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances.
- Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Local Area Contacts:

State Coordinator:

If you need further assistance, call the
National Center for Homeless Education
at the toll-free HelpLine number:

1-800-308-2145



AMHERST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03031

GERARD ST. AMAND, PRINCIPAL

MEG TRAINOR, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SUSAN BLAIR, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SPECIAL ED COORDINATOR

Confidential Referral Form for Students in Transition

This questionnaire is intended to address the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act. If your family lives in any of the following temporary situations due to an inability to find fixed, regular and adequate housing, your preschool-aged and school-aged children may have certain rights and protections. The answers provided will help determine the services your student may be eligible to receive.

School _____ Date _____

Student's Name _____ M _____ F _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial)

Student's Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

1. Is your current address a temporary living arrangement? Yes____ No____
2. Is this temporary living arrangement due to a loss of housing or an economic hardship? Yes____No____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

If you answered No to the above questions, you do **not** need to complete the remainder of this form.

If you answered Yes to the above questions, please complete the remainder of this form and submit it to the Guidance Department.

What is the student's current living arrangement?

- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford adequate housing.
- In a motel/hotel, camp ground or similar situation due to the lack of alternative, adequate housing
- In a shelter
- Other situations due to financial hardship and/or an inability to find adequate housing _____

Possible Barriers to Education

- School Selection
- Transportation
- School Records
- Immunizations or other medical records
- Other issues/barriers _____

If you have any further question, please contact the Guidance Department.
The State Coordinator is Linda Thistle-Elliot (603)271-3840