



McKinney-Vento & ARP Homeless Quarterly Call Transportation & Dispute Resolution

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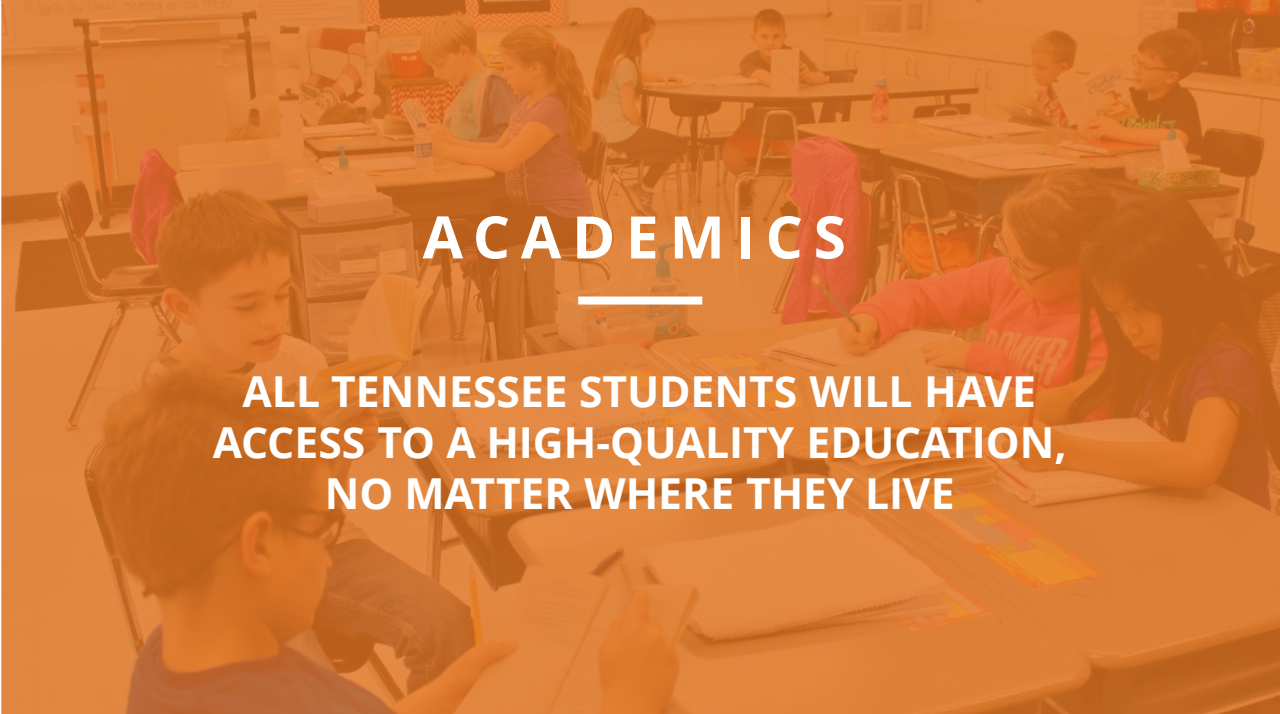
Jan. 25, 2024





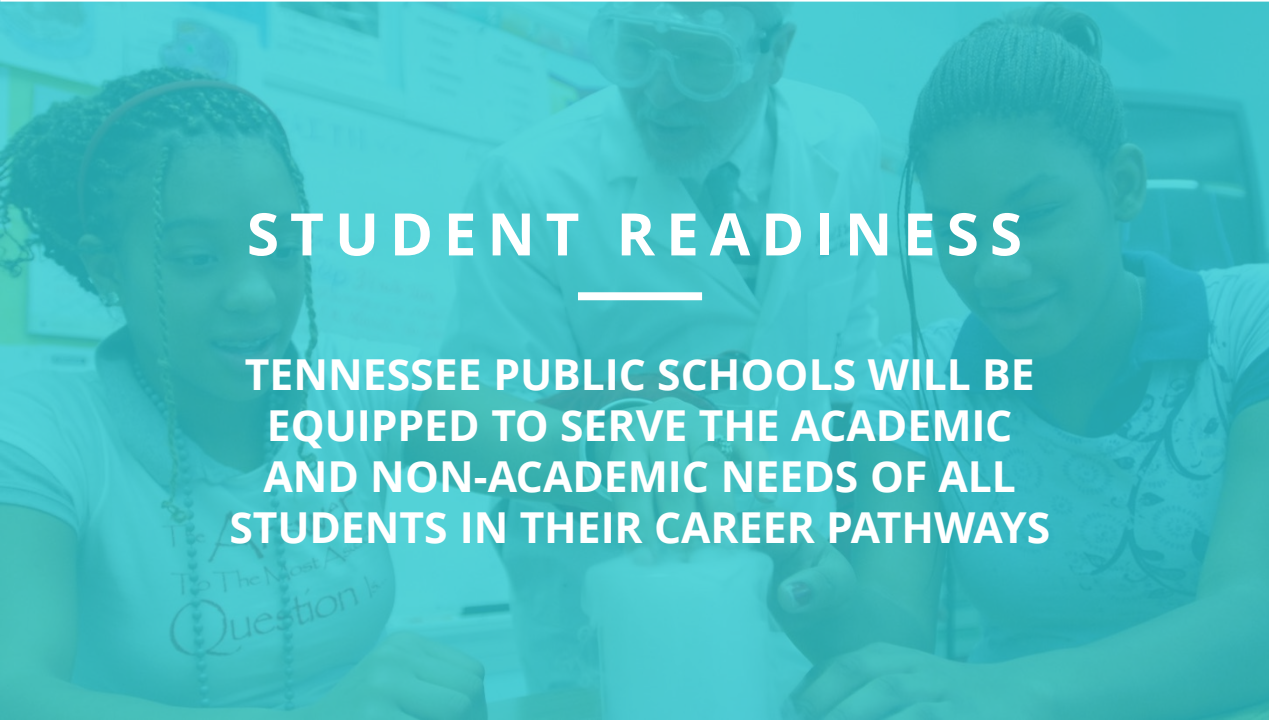
BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.



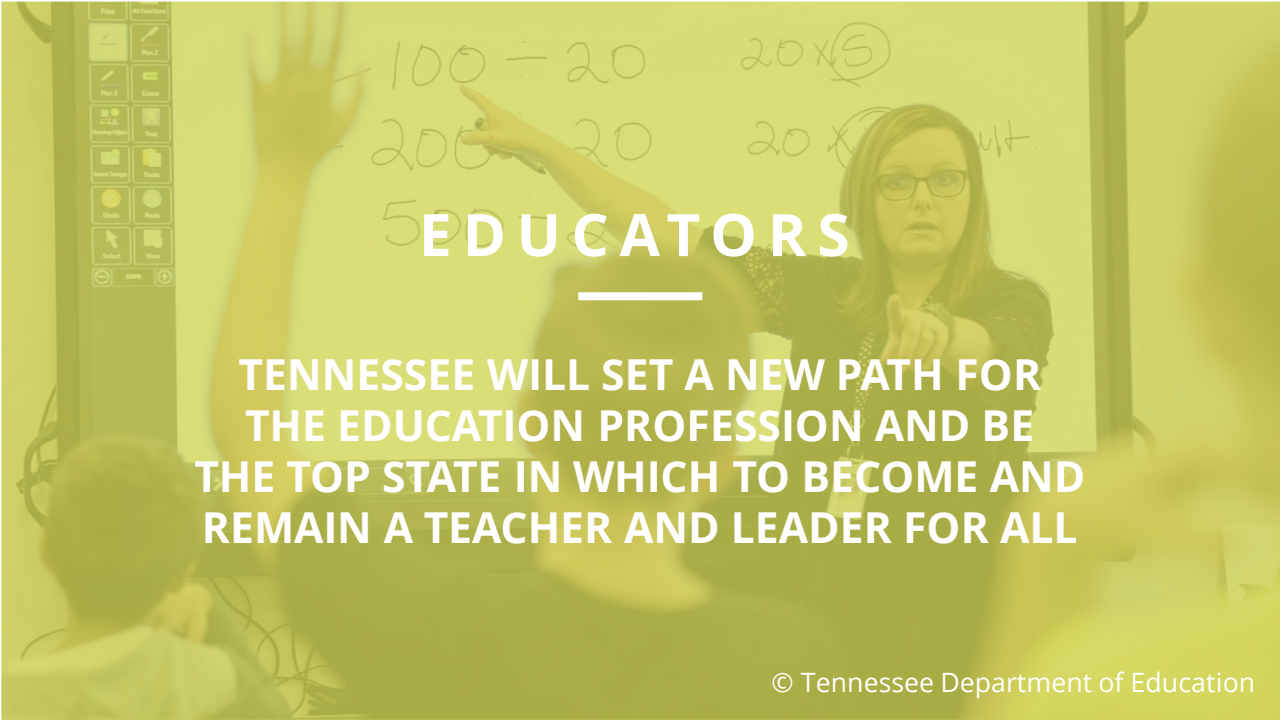
ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE



STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS



EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



Agenda

- Program Purpose & Definitions
- SchoolHouse Connection
 - External Slides
- Important Reminders & Resources



Program Purpose & Definitions





Purpose of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program

- The purpose of the McKinney-Vento EHCY program is to ensure that each homeless child or youth **has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education**, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Defining Homelessness

- Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**:
 - sharing the housing of other persons;
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals;
 - living in a public or private place not designed for regular sleeping accommodation;
 - living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - who are migratory children living in the above circumstances.

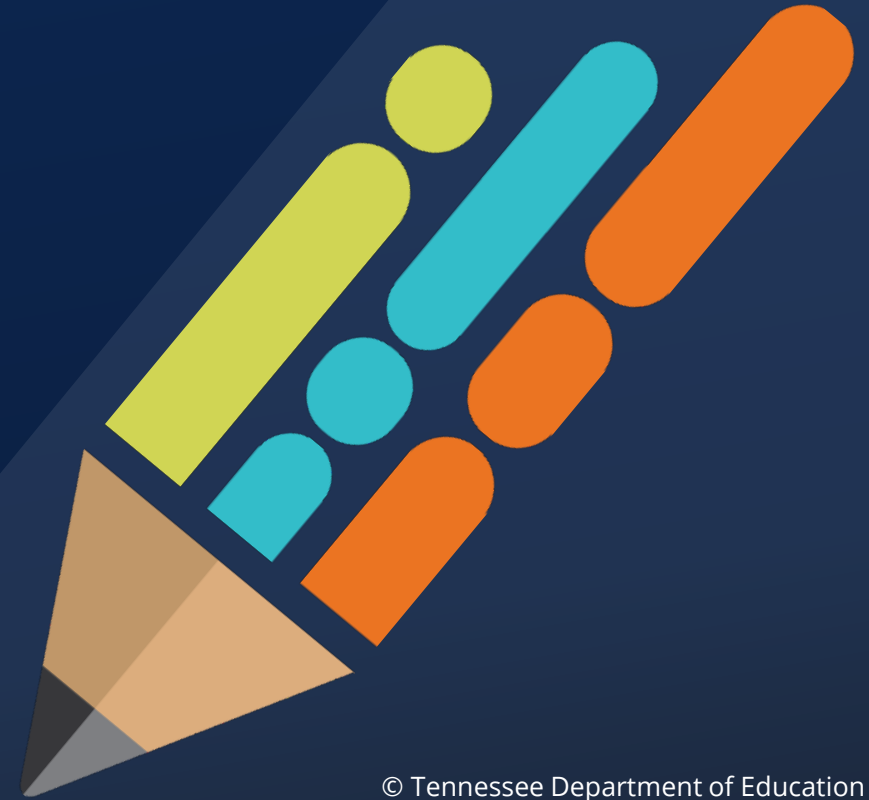
Key Definitions

- **Fixed**: stationary, permanent, not subject to change
- **Regular**: used on a nightly basis
- **Adequate**: sufficient for meeting the physical, psychological, and safety needs typically met in a home environment

SchoolHouse Connection External Slides



Important Reminders & Resources



Dispute Resolution Process Brief and TDOE Template



National Center for Homeless Education
Supporting the Education of Children
and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
<https://nche.ed.gov>



MCKINNEY-VENTO LAW INTO PRACTICE BRIEF SERIES

Dispute Resolution

This NCHE brief:

- summarizes the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act related to dispute resolution, and
- provides an overview of implementation strategies at the State and local levels



McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process Sample Form

Instructions for Using this Template:

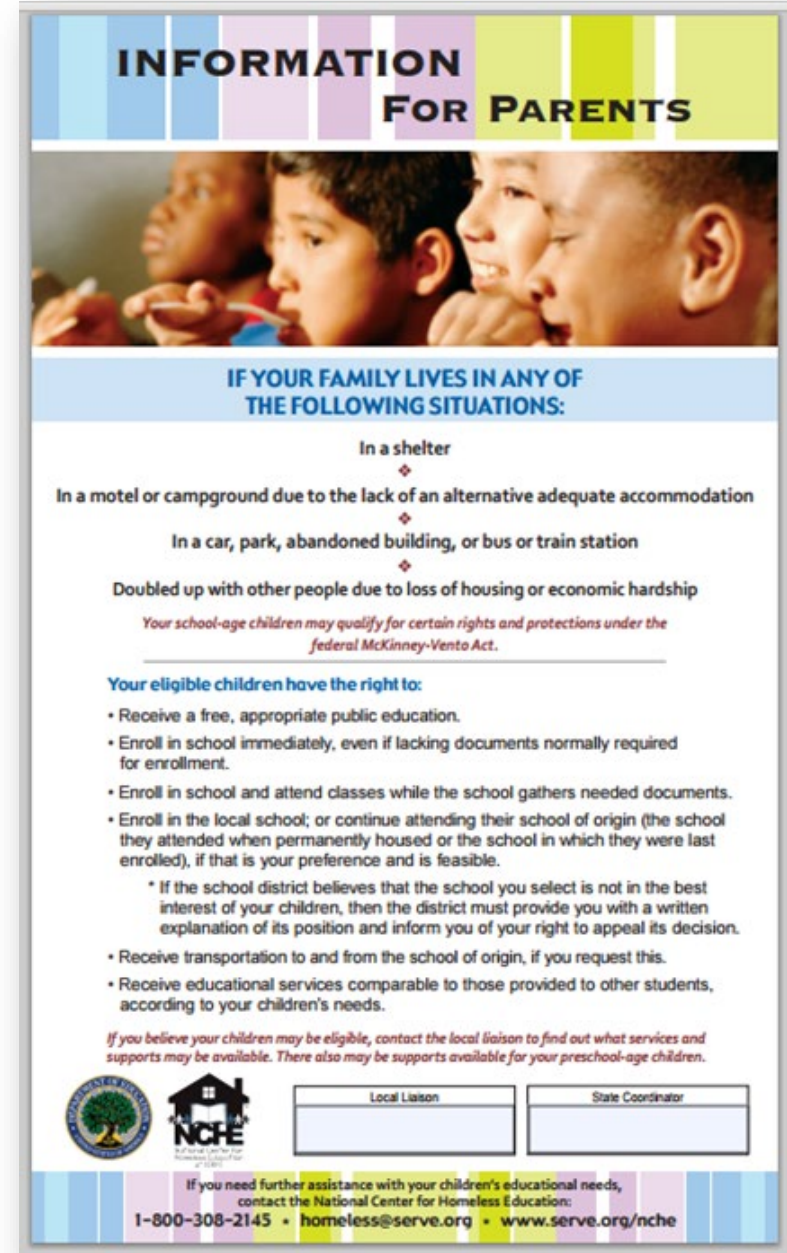
Before sharing, place this document on LEA letterhead, delete or update all red font areas, and provide the most up-to-date McKinney-Vento Liaison contact information.

This form can be used to initiate the dispute resolution process required by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. It can be used when a parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disagrees with the LEAs eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision. If a dispute arises under the McKinney-Vento Act over eligibility, school selection, or school enrollment [42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(3)(E)], the Act requires LEAs initiate the McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process. Federal law [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(C)] requires that the State have a [Dispute Process](#) and that the LEA policy must align with the State's policy .

Sources: [NCHE McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Brief](#)
[TEMPLATE McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process Sample Form 2021-04-16](#)

Important Reminders

- Ensure every school has an updated homeless poster posted in a common area of the school.
- Contact information should include both the local homeless liaison as well as the state coordinator:
 - **Vanessa Waters**
 - **(615) 917-3750**
- Posters and other vital resources can be ordered for free from the [National Center for Homeless Education](http://www.nche.org) (NCHE).



The poster is titled "INFORMATION FOR PARENTS" and features a photograph of three children. It lists various housing situations where children may be eligible for educational rights under the McKinney-Vento Act. It details the rights of eligible children, such as receiving a free public education and enrolling in school immediately. It also provides contact information for the local liaison and state coordinator, and includes the NCHE logo and contact details at the bottom.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- In a shelter
- In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.

** If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.*

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

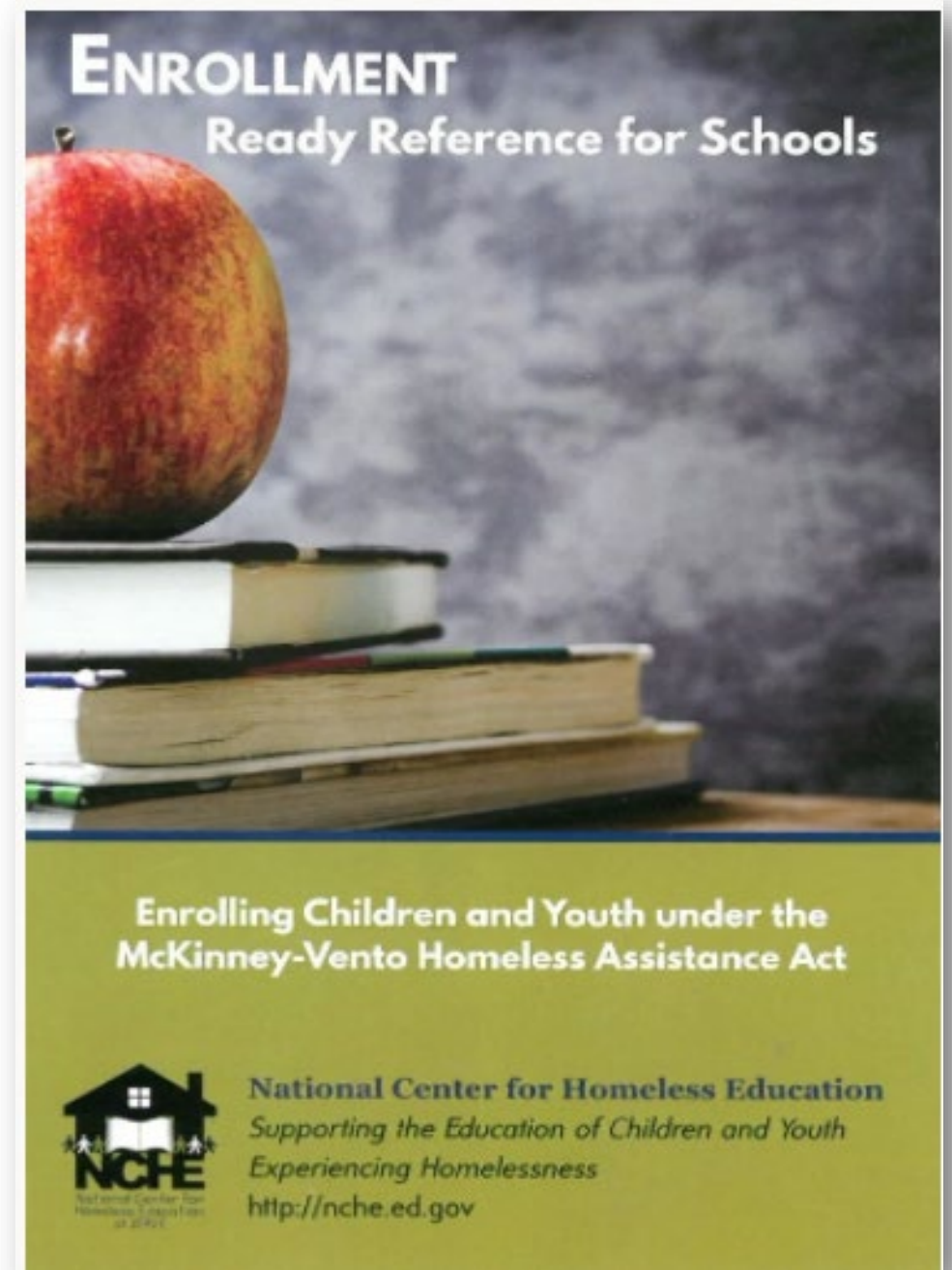
If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.

Local Liaison **State Coordinator**

NCHE
National Center for Homeless Education
1-800-308-2145 • homeless@serve.org • www.serve.org/nche

Brochures

- Brochures explaining the rights of students under McKinney-Vento are also available from [NCHE](#) in English and Spanish.
- These should be given to parents when their child is determined to be eligible for services, or to homeless unaccompanied youth.



LEA/School Handbook and Website



- Include information about the McKinney-Vento Act in your local education agency (LEA) handbook that is given to every student.
- Display information about McKinney-Vento on your LEA/school website in a place where parents and students can find it easily, including:
 - **Name and contact information** for the **local liaison**
 - **Definition of homeless** under McKinney-Vento
 - **Rights and services available** to students experiencing homelessness

Resources

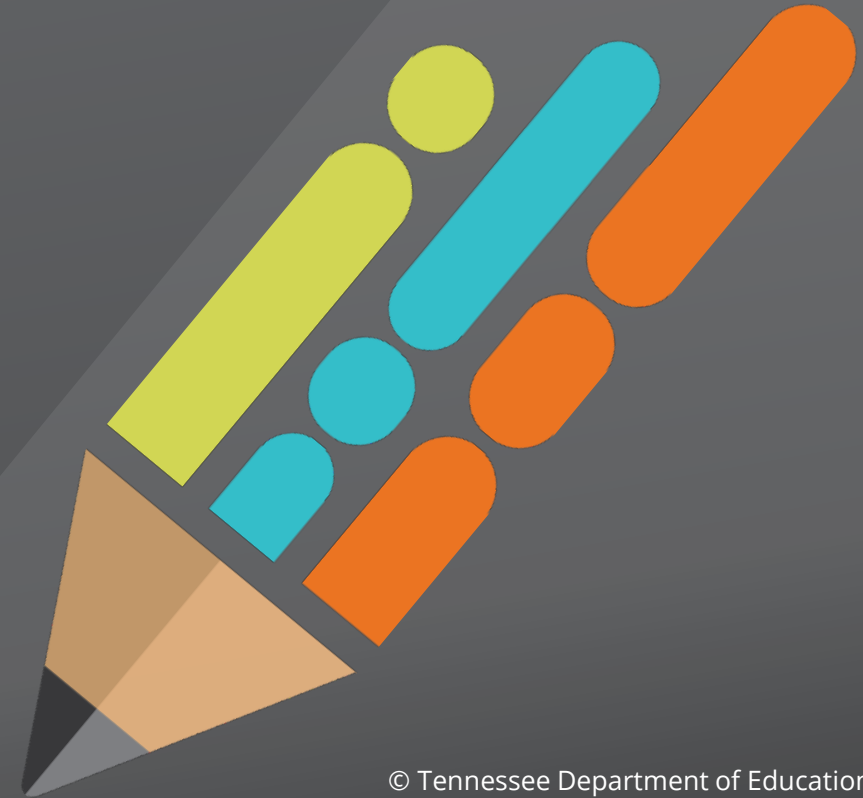


- [U.S. Department of Education \(ED\): McKinney-Vento Law and Guidance](#)
- [Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [ePlan > TDOE Resources](#) > ESSA Information, Guidance, PPTs, & Webinars > Title IX, Part A Education for Homeless Children & Youth > McKinney-Vento Toolkit and Templates
- [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\):](#)
 - [NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit](#)
 - Homeless Education Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org

Please Share your Feedback:

You may access the PD by navigating here:

https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/fpo_professional_development_survey





Thank You!

Vanessa Waters | McKinney-Vento and Immigrant Grant Manager

Vanessa.Waters@tn.gov

(615) 917-3750

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Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Citizens and agencies are encouraged to report fraud, waste, or abuse in State and Local government.

NOTICE: This agency is a recipient of taxpayer funding. If you observe an agency director or employee engaging in any activity which you consider to be illegal, improper or wasteful, please call the state Comptroller's toll-free Hotline:

1-800-232-5454

Notifications can also be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline>



McKinney-Vento: Transportation and Dispute Resolution

January 25, 2024

About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection
works to overcome
homelessness through
education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.


WEBSITE:

schoolhouseconnection.org

NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships



Learning Outcomes



Participants will enhance their knowledge of the McKinney-Vento requirements for providing transportation and the dispute resolution process.



Participants will learn best practices for implementing these requirements.

TRANSPORTATION

McKinney-Vento Requirements

Transportation



McKinney-Vento requires LEAs to provide adequate and appropriate transportation.



Liaisons must ensure that parents and guardians, and unaccompanied youths, are fully informed of all transportation services, and are assisted in accessing services.



LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school of origin, including until the end of the academic year when the student obtains permanent housing.

- If the school of origin and current residence are in the same LEA, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation to the school of origin.



School of Origin Transportation



LEAs must consider what is in the best interest of the student.

- It is presumed that remaining the school of origin is in the best interest of students.



There is no time or distance limit for transportation under McKinney-Vento.



Factors to be considered in best interest:

- Graduation requirements or student's progress toward graduation
- Age
- Safety



School of Origin Transportation

McKinney-Vento is a federal law. If a student crosses state lines to attend school, the two states must work together to provide transportation.



If crossing LEA lines, both LEAs must determine how to divide the responsibility and share the cost, or they must share the cost equally.



It is recommended that the homeless liaison reach out to the sharing district, rather than simply sending a bill.



Discuss options - one LEA may have transportation options that are more cost effective than the other.



Transportation Options

Be creative with transportation options!

- The mode of transportation is at the discretion of the district, as long as it does not create barriers to attendance and full participation.

- Do not stigmatize students based on transportation.
 - Example: It may be commonly known that only students experiencing homelessness arrive to school in cabs.

- Consider what funding sources can be used to offset transportation costs.
 - Examples: ARP-HCY, Title I-A homeless reservation, state or local funds, community partnerships



Comparable Transportation



LEAs must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students.

- If a student is on a normal bus route, or within the LEA policy to take public transportation - those typical methods should be used.
- If a student is temporarily living somewhere that is in the LEA walk zone, that student should follow the walk zone policy.



Exceptions do exist within offering comparable services, usually if there is an unsafe route to school or concerns for the child's safety.



Extracurricular Activities

- LEAs must eliminate barriers to, among other things, the enrollment of students experiencing homelessness (including transportation barriers).
 - Enrollment includes attending classes and “participating fully in school activities”.
- Full participation includes participation in extracurricular activities, and McKinney-Vento emphasizes that students must not face barriers to accessing extracurricular activities.
- If transportation is a barrier for a child or youth to participate in extracurricular activities, transportation must be provided.



Preschool Transportation

- Preschool is included in the definition of school of origin.
- If transportation is a barrier, the LEA must provide it for LEA-administered public preschool programs (4K, Head Start, IDEA services, etc.)
- Transportation to the school of origin must be provided even if a child who is enrolled in a public preschool in one LEA moves to another LEA that does not provide widely available or universal preschool.

ARP-HCY Funds

Transportation

Provide transportation to enable children and youth to attend classes and participate fully in school activities:

- Purchase a vehicle and pay a driver to provide transportation
- Hire a transportation coordinator to ensure bus routes and other transportation is arranged quickly and efficiently
- Develop partnerships with public transportation
- Pay for driver's education and assist with obtaining driver's licenses, as needed for school of origin transportation

DISPUTE RESOLUTION



Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment the LEA must:



Immediately enroll the student in the school in which enrollment is sought pending the final resolution of the dispute, including all appeals.

- While the appeals are pending, the student has the right to full participation in school activities and all McKinney-Vento services, including transportation.



Provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of any dispute-related decisions, including the right to appeal such decisions.

- The written explanation must include the reason for the determination and must be in a manner and form understandable to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.



Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment the LEA must:



Refer the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to the homeless liaison, who is required to assist with the LEA's dispute resolution process.



Follow a clear process for the dispute and appeal process, including having more than one level of appeal before unresolved disputes are sent to the SEA.



Dispute Resolution

Important Considerations and Recommendations



LEAs should consider who is in the role of the liaison.

- Example: If the superintendent is also the liaison, how will the dispute process move forward? What will the layers of appeal look like?



It is recommended that the dispute resolution process include:

- Notice of educational rights under McKinney-Vento
- The right to appeal
- A step-by-step description of how to appeal
- A list of advocacy service providers in the community
- Contact information for the homeless liaison and the State Coordinator
- Relevant timelines

Questions & Discussion



Additional Resources

1. [Meeting the Transportation Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
2. [Flexing the Flexibility of ARP-HCY Funding](#)
3. [Full Participation in Extracurricular Activities for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
4. [Interview Checklists for Supporting School Selection](#)



Let's Connect!

Facebook: SchoolHouse Connection

Facebook Group: Homelessness &
Education - A SchoolHouse Connection
Group

Instagram: @SchoolHouseConnection

Twitter: @SchoolHouseConn

Linkedin: SchoolHouse Connection

RESOURCES



Sign up for our Mailing List!

Get on the list for important legislative updates, useful resources, webinar announcements, and news related to homelessness and education.

Coming Soon!

Online Modules for School Staff!

Short modules with videos, quizzes, and certificates of completion

- Teachers
- School health staff
- School counselors
- Enrollment staff
- Administrators
- Transportation staff
- School resource officers
- School nutrition staff
- Early childhood programs

More info + updates: schoolhouseconnection.org/shc-training-modules





JOIN THE SHC COMMUNITY ON slack

NEW!

**Connect, Share, and Collaborate.
Scan the code or visit the link
to get started!**



bit.ly/SHC-slack



Contact Information



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Senior Program Manager of
Education Initiatives

karen@schoolhouseconnection.org