

Are you in transition?

The term “homeless children and youth” (students in transition) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- Children and youth sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or 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.
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

-from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001, Title VII, Subtitle B, Section 725 as modified by Title X, Part C of NCLB

If you have questions or need assistance please contact your local school office or the Douglas County School District Homeless Liaison in the Title 1 Office at 775-782-5160

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**Douglas County School District
McKinney-Vento Homeless
Education Assistance Act**

Educational Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there.
- Continue in the school they last attended before becoming homeless or the school they last attended, if that is the parent's or guardian's choice and is feasible.
- Receive transportation to the school they last attended before their family became homeless or the school they last attended, if a parent or guardian requests such transportation.
- Attend school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- 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 comparable to that provided to children who are not homeless.

If you have questions regarding your rights under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, please contact your school Homeless Liaison, or the District Homeless Liaison – Brian Frazier at (775) 782-5160.

These rights are established under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This act is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. It was reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002. To qualify for these rights, children and youth must be considered homeless according to the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

Students, Families, and Unaccompanied Youth in Transition

What You Need To Know About Your Rights & Education in the Douglas County School District

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Education of Homeless Children and Youth**



**Douglas County School District
1638 Mono Avenue
Minden, NV 89423
775-782-5160**



If your family is experiencing homelessness your children have the right to :

- A free and appropriate public education, including eligibility for Title 1 services.
- Immediately enroll and attend classes while awaiting a birth certificate, address verification, immunization records, and school records.
- Receive the same special programs, services, and supplies, if needed, as provided to all other children.
- The homeless student has these choices:
 - Remain at the school of origin (school the child attended before becoming homeless)
 - Remain at the school last attended while homeless
 - Attend the school for which the student's residence is zoned.
 - Receive transportation to the school of origin or last attended by DCSD transportation.
- Appeal an enrollment decision that is not your choice using the DCSD Homeless Dispute Resolution Process.
- Receive referrals for services to local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to students and families in transition.



What parents of families experiencing homelessness need to know:



Nevada Law requires mandatory school attendance between ages 7 and 18.

Kindergarten:

Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 30 may be enrolled in kindergarten.

School enrollment can be accomplished on a temporary basis while the DCSD Homeless Liaison office assists in obtaining documentation.

Documents needed include:

- Address verification
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization records
- School records

Special Programs:

Your child has the right to participate in extracurricular activities and the right to enter into any special programs the school offers, if eligible.

- Programs for the disadvantaged
- Gifted and talented programs
- Free breakfast and lunch

The Douglas County School District is committed to providing homeless children and youth the opportunities to achieve the same high-quality academic standards expected of all children enrolled in the Douglas County School District. The District is committed to removing barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations. The District ensures that homeless children and youth are not segregated or stigmatized on the basis of their status as homeless. The District plan for serving children in transition is outlined in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 542 on the District Website.

How parents of families experiencing homelessness can help and be involved:

- Make sure your child attends school every day. Make education a family priority.
- Remember that you are your child's first and most significant teacher.
- Read to your child. A few minutes of reading every day can make a world of difference.
- Help your child develop good study and work habits.
- Meet with your child's teachers and other school personnel. Inform them about your transitional situation. They are there to help your child during this time.
- Stay involved with your child's education by attending the Back to School Night, parent conferences, and school activities.
- If you move, notify the school office of your departure date and initiate records transfer.
- If you move, it is also important for your child to say good-bye to friends and teachers.
- Show and tell your child that you love him/her.

