

Marshalltown CSD Homeless Services

McKinney-Vento Act Services

If your family lives or has lived in any of the following situations during this school year...

- 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

...then your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. There also may be supports and services available for your preschool-age children. 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;
- 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.

Dispute Resolution: If a family or student in temporary housing disagree with their school district about a student's McKinney-Vento eligibility for enrollment, school selection options, or transportation, you may challenge the district's student eligibility decision under McKinney-Vento. To do so, the school district must:

- Provide written notice to the student or family about the reasons for their disagreement;
- Provide complete information in writing about the right to appeal to the family or youth;
- Put the family or youth in touch with the McKinney-Vento liaison for assistance;
- Provide immediate enrollment and transportation while the appeal is pending and until all available appeals are final.

Internal school district dispute and appeal processes cannot be used to exclude a student in temporary housing from school or discontinue the student's McKinney-Vento protections.

Marshalltown School District personnel coordinate a variety of activities to assist homeless families with school age and pre-school age children. Primary activities include eliminating traditional barriers to students being enrolled in school immediately. This includes such things as residency requirements, guardianship, transportation, school fees, lack of student records and special programs.

Homelessness brings about a variety of basic needs that require service assistance beyond what schools can offer. The District works closely with social service agencies and shelter directors to provide for the children. Through the support of various charitable groups and social service agencies the Homeless Specialist works to provide what is needed for children to have success in school, by either referral or by direct acquisition.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact your school or the MCSD McKinney-Vento Liaison to find out what services and supports may be available.

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