

McKinney –Vento Homeless Education Program

*McKinney-Vento:
School Access and Stability
under the McKinney-
Vento Act LEA training*



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Education*
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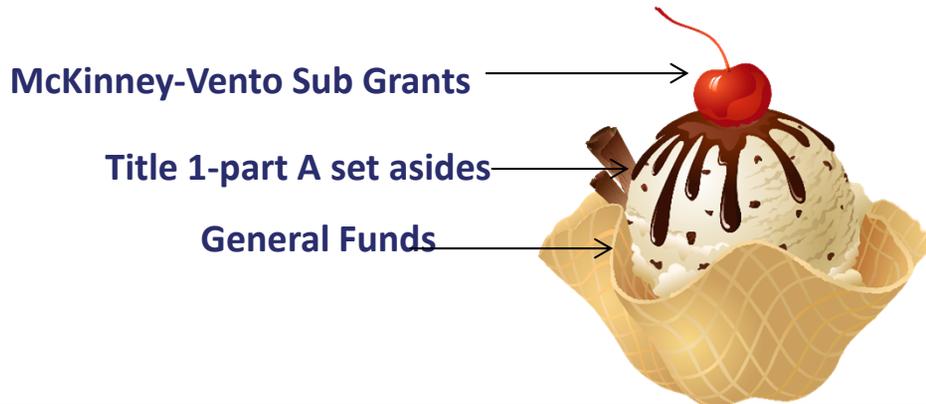
What is the McKinney Vento Act?

- Federal education law, originally passed in 1987.
 - Reauthorized in 2015 by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
 - Amendments took effect October 1, 2016.
 - Works hand-in-hand with Title I Part A
 - *A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is automatically eligible for Title I services. [1115(b)(2)(E)]*
 - This includes support services and supplemental educational programs such as tutoring, summer school, preschool, etc.
- and other federal education programs such as Free & Reduced Breakfast/Lunch program.



What is the McKinney Vento Act?

- \$93.5 million authorized funding to SEAs for FY20. Largest percentage increase of all federal education programs.
 - Arizona awards: FY 19 \$1,907,837
FY 20 \$2,091,980
- SEAs award competitive subgrants to LEAs.



What is the McKinney Vento Act?

Arizona McKinney Vento Student Data

*SY 18-19: **21,062** students identified

*SY 17-18: **24,393** students identified

*SY 16-17: **25,448** students identified

Identification of students is key to the success of the program.



Definition of Permanency

Fixed:

Stationary, permanent, not subject to change

Regular:

Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis

Consider the relative permanence

Adequate:

Lawfully and reasonably sufficient

Sufficient for meeting the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

Can you give me an example of a non regular, not fixed and not adequate living situation?



How do students meet eligibility?

Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including:

- Sharing the housing of other persons 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;



Eligibility cont...

- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances;
- Unaccompanied youth (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) living in the above circumstances.

Unaccompanied Youth

- The term unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- DCS is not involved in any way with the child/youth.
- An unaccompanied homeless youth is a young person who is both homeless (meeting McKinney-Vento definition) *and* unaccompanied (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian).

Doubled Up or “Shared Housing”

Legislative wording: “sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason”

Considerations:

- Why did the parties move in together? Due to a crisis or by mutual choice as a plan for mutual benefit?
- How permanent is the living arrangement intended to be? Does the family or youth have any legal right to be in the home?
- Where would the party in crisis live if not sharing housing?
- Is the living arrangement fixed, regular, and adequate?

Students Experiencing Homeless

May:

- Be unable to meet standard school enrollment requirements.
- Move around and change schools a lot.
- Be hungry, tired, and stressed.
- Not have school supplies or homework completed (lack of space).
- Not have access to reliable transportation.
- Not have a parent or guardian to help them (unaccompanied youth).

Identification Strategies:

Enrollment procedures

- *Questionnaire*
- *Interviews*

Building awareness with all staff

- *Bus drivers*
- *Teachers*
- *Cafeteria workers*
- *Etc.*

•Coordination with agencies

- *CPS*
- *Police*
- *Shelters*
- *Refugee Resettlement*

Legalities of McKinney-Vento

Defines and protects the rights of homeless students to enroll in, attend and succeed in public schools.

Federal law supersedes state and local laws and polices.

View the Non-Regulatory Guidance:

https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=5dcc5df403e2b3163ca_d532d



Key Provisions of McKinney-Vento

- Immediate enrollment without documents
- School stability
- Transportation to school of origin
- Eliminate barriers = ensure school policies and procedures are fair
- Unaccompanied youth=immediate enrollment
- Dispute Resolution Process
- District Liaison assigned to every school district



McKinney-Vento Best Interest

In determining best interest, the liaison shall:

- *Presume that keeping the child/youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth.*
- *Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest: including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth.*

McKinney-Vento



Important Take-A-Ways

Districts:

Enroll children and youth experiencing homelessness

immediately!

Remove any barriers to education!

If you turn away a child or youth, you may be sending them into a dangerous situation and breaking the law.

Community, Districts, Agencies:

Safety first!

Sensitivity is critical!

Confidentiality is your legal obligation and essential!



We all play a pivotal role in keeping children and youth safe!



FAQ's



1. Can paperwork be incomplete and still identified as McKinney Vento?

Yes, if a family identifies themselves as homeless, we must count them as homeless in our counts. The Liaison should follow up with the family to inform them of their educational rights as McKinney Vento.

2. At what point would the student officially be considered McKinney Vento? Is there any other documentation that would be needed before this decision can be made?

When the housing questionnaire is filled out as McKinney Vento. There is no other documentation that should be requested or required to qualify. This is not a black and white situation.



FAQ's

3. If a student were to live on the border of another state/country how, if at all, would a school be able to verify to which state or country that student belonged?

McKinney Vento is a US Federal law so only qualifies in the US. The state that the child belongs to will be based on the school of origin address. Will need more information on a case by case situation.

4. How many attempts would be acceptable in making the decision that a student was McKinney Vento? Would it be acceptable to determine the student was not McKinney Vento if they cannot contact the family/guardians?

There is no set number of attempts but in a social worker mindset, maybe a minimum of 3 attempts (phone/voicemail, email, letter to parents with the student) would be acceptable. The student should still be McKinney Vento if the family cannot be contacted (unaccompanied? Need to remove the barriers).