

# The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The education provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act were designed to protect the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

If your current address is a temporary living arrangement and it is due to loss of housing or economic hardship, you may meet the definition of displaced or homeless status. Please contact the registrar at your child's school to fill out a student residency questionnaire or contact the Homeless Liaison.

## The Act's Key Provisions

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) specifies and protects the rights of children and youth in homeless situations. Highlights include:

- **Immediate Enrollment** – The right to be enrolled immediately in school, without immunization or academic records, and birth certificate.
- **Choice of Schools** – A student who is displaced or experiencing homelessness has two choices in deciding which school to attend:
  - The school of origin (the school the student attended when he/she became homeless).
  - The school in the zone where the student is currently residing.
- **Transportation** – Students who are displaced or in homeless situations are entitled to transportation to and from the school of origin, if it is feasible, in the student's best interest, and requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- **Services** – Students experiencing homelessness are entitled to the same programs and services that are available to other children in the District, such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, English Language Learner services, and tutoring.
- **Dispute Resolution** – If problems arise between the school and parents or between districts, the parent shall be referred to the school's homeless liaison. In the meantime, the student must be immediately enrolled or if enrolled, remain in school and receive transportation pending the outcome of the dispute resolution process.

## Homeless Educational Liaison

Van Alstyne ISD is committed to identifying and serving all displaced students or those experiencing homelessness. VAISD may also offer additional assistance to students and their families experiencing homelessness. If you require additional information, contact your campus counselor.