

Parents' and Students' Rights Under the McKinney-Vento Act

The federal McKinney-Vento Act and West Virginia state law and policy guarantee that a student can enroll in school if they live:

- In a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter or transitional living program);
- In a motel, hotel or weekly rate housing;
- In a house or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss;
- In an abandoned building, a car, at a campground or on the street;
- In foster care with an adult who is not their parent or legal guardian;
- In substandard housing (no electricity, no water, and/or no heat); or
- With friends or family because they are a runaway or unaccompanied youth.

The student may also:

- Continue to attend the school in which they were last enrolled, even if they have moved away from that school's attendance zone or district (if feasible and in the best interest of the child);
- Receive transportation from the current residence back to the school of origin;
- Qualify automatically for Child Nutrition Programs (Free and Reduced-Price Lunch and other district food programs);
- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which they are eligible; and,
- Contact the district liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process.

Enrollment Forms

If a student lives in one of these situations, as for all students enrolling in West Virginia schools, they may enroll in school without the following documents in hand; however, their full cooperation is needed with county and school personnel in trying to obtain these documents as soon as possible.

- Proof of residency;
- School records;
- Certified birth certificate;
- Legal guardianship papers; and,
- Immunization records and/or a TB skin test result (in-state students only).

However, if the student is coming from out of state without proof of at least the first series of immunizations and a TB skin test result, they will be enrolled, but homebound

instruction will immediately be provided until appropriate immunizations and TB test results can be obtained. If the student moves, the following should be done:

- Contact the school district' liaison for help in enrolling in a new school or arranging to continue in the school they have been attending.
- Contact the new school and provide any information necessary to assist the teachers in helping them adjust to new circumstances.
- Ask the local liaison, shelter staff, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Helpful questions to ask the school so the student may receive all needed services:

- What transportation is available to stay in the same school?
- If I have to change schools, can someone help transfer records quickly?
- Are any tutoring services available?
- If special education services are needed, how long is the wait for testing?
- Are there special classes to benefit a talent I have?
- Are there sports, music or other activities available to me?
- How can I receive free meals at school?
- Are school supplies available?
- Will I be able to go on class field trips, if unable to pay?
- How can I get a required school uniform, if one cannot be bought?

For More Information, Please Contact Your Local School District Liaison:

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