



**McKinney-Vento Homeless Children & Youth
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

This FAQ contains information regarding the U.S. Department of Education’s McKinney-Vento program as outlined by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

Number	Question	Answer
Definitions/Identification		
1	What are homeless students' rights under the McKinney-Vento Act?	Please see McKinney-Vento Student Rights .
2	Is there any guidance on what “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” means?	The McKinney-Vento Act states that children and youth who lack “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” will be considered homeless [42 U.S.C. §11434A(2)(A)]. Fixed: A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change. Regular: A regular residence is one which is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis. Adequate: An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.
3	Are migrant and immigrant students covered by the McKinney-Vento Act?	Yes, migrant and immigrant students are covered by the Act if they are living in a homeless situation [42 U.S.C. §11434A(2)(b)(iv)].
4	Is there a time limit on how long a child or youth can be considered homeless?	No, there is no specific time limit on homelessness. Due to the extremely limited incomes of most families experiencing homelessness and the severe shortage of affordable housing across the country, experiences of homelessness can sometimes last an extended period of time.
School Selection		
5	What is meant by the term “school of origin?”	School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a preschool and a designated receiving school at the next grade level for a feeder school [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(I)].
6	What factors should be considered for keeping	When choosing the school a child experiencing homelessness should attend, the choice must be made “according to the child’s or youth’s



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

	children at their school of origin?	best interest” [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(A)]. Changing schools significantly impedes students’ academic and social progress.
7	How long can a student attend his or her school of origin?	Students have the right to remain in the school of origin for the duration of their homelessness, if it is their best interest, even if the child’s homelessness extends over multiple school years. If a student moves into permanent housing during the school year, the student can finish that academic year in the school of origin [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(A)(II)].
Liaisons		
8	Does every LEA have to have a liaison?	Yes. The McKinney-Vento Act requires every local educational agency to “designate an appropriate staff person” who is able to carry out their McKinney-Vento duties to serve as a liaison [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)].
9	Our school district has a new McKinney-Vento liaison. How do we report this to the Indiana Department of Education?	Please forward the McKinney-Vento Liaison’s name, email, and phone number to McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov .
10	Where can I locate the Indiana McKinney-Vento Liaison Certification course?	The Indiana McKinney-Vento Liaison Certification can be found in Moodle. The Enrollment Key is: livelearn2020 Resource
11	Must LEAs publicize information about the McKinney-Vento Act?	Yes. McKinney-Vento liaisons must make sure that families are aware of the educational and related opportunities available to their children (including transportation) and must post public notice of the education rights of children and youth in homeless situations [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(6)(A)(v), (vi), (viii)].
Immediate Enrollment & Attendance		
12	How immediate is immediate enrollment?	Although the Act is silent on the definition of immediate, the standard dictionary definition is without delay. Therefore, the student must begin attending classes and participating fully in school activities without delay. Generally, that would mean the same or the following day.
13	Does the McKinney-Vento Act define the term “enroll” or “enrollment”?	Yes. The Act defines both terms to mean “attending classes and participating fully in school activities” [42 U.S.C. §11434A(1)]. Enrollment includes ensuring youth can attend the classes for which they are eligible and participate in school activities for which they are eligible and in which they wish to participate, including other academic and extracurricular activities.



14	How can a school determine what classes or services to provide a student if there are no school records?	<p>The enrolling school must immediately admit the student and must contact the previous school for records [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(3)(C), (D)].</p> <p>If the records cannot be transmitted immediately, the enrolling school can speak with staff from the previous school to get basic information about the student. Former teachers, counselors, and administrators should be able to provide this information.</p>
15	We received notification that our homeless form was non-compliant. We have parents/guardians complete online registration. How do other schools remain compliant with this? We use Skyward.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure all enrollment staff are trained on McKinney-Vento. Per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act all school district staff should be McKinney-Vento trained by the District McKinney Vento liaison once per school year.2. Ensure that your McKinney-Vento Housing Questionnaire Form is up to date and that all students and families enrolling or registering in your district complete the form at least twice per school year (at the beginning of the school year and at the beginning of the second semester). This helps to identify families that are unaware of McKinney-Vento eligibility. Sample Housing Questionnaire3. Your school district should work with your SIS IT and IT Department to:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Input a question on the online enrollment form for each student that asks if the student/family is in a temporarily living situation by asking if they currently live in one of the following homeless instances:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Doubled-up – Living with family members or friends due to loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship.ii. Shelterediii. Hotel/moteliv. Unsheltered – In a car, park, bus, train, or campsitev. Other temporary living situation (Please describe)vi. Not homeless – In permanent housingb. If the student/family chooses any of the options other than Not Homeless, the family should be prompted to complete an online McKinney-Vento Housing Questionnaire Form.c. Once the McKinney-Vento Housing Questionnaire Form is complete, the form should be automatically forwarded to the district McKinney-Vento Liaison for review.d. The district liaison is to ensure that there is a process in place to contact families to properly identify and provide services, if eligible.e. This process will help you collect data for your McKinney-Vento students as well. <p>This process will ensure that all students enrolled or registered will be properly identified as McKinney-Vento students on your online portal.</p>



		Resource
Unaccompanied Youth		
16	How does the McKinney-Vento Act define “unaccompanied youth”? Is there an age range?	Unaccompanied youth is defined as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C. §11434A(6)]. The Act does not provide an age range. Thus a student whose parent retains legal custody of a youth, but not physical custody, is considered an unaccompanied youth.
17	Should schools enroll youth in school without proof of guardianship?	Yes. Lack of a legal guardian or guardianship documents cannot delay or prevent the enrollment of an unaccompanied youth [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(3)(C), (g)(1)(H)(iv)]. LEAs must ensure immediate enrollment, as the McKinney-Vento Act requires states and LEAs to eliminate barriers to identification, enrollment and retention and to enroll unaccompanied youth in school immediately [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(1)(I), (g)(7)]. LEAs may adopt their own policies to meet these mandates.
18	Who can make educational decisions for an unaccompanied youth?	FERPA allows “an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian” to access a student’s education records, thereby permitting schools to discuss educational issues with such caregivers [34 CFR §§99.3-99.4].
Transportation		
19	Do school corporations involved have a financial responsibility for the transportation costs of homeless children and youth?	The U.S. Department of Education suggests LEAs develop a system of providing gas vouchers, cards or mileage reimbursement to parents or youth who have cars and are able to provide transportation, as a cost-effective means to meet the district’s obligation. If a parent is providing the transportation for their child, the district must pay the parent mileage reimbursement consistent with what a district employee would receive. For example, the district cannot pay a mileage reimbursement rate that is less than the LEA mileage rate for employees. Additionally, in most instances, the district will need to provide reimbursement for both the time while the student is in the vehicle with the parent and the mileage for the parent’s return trip to their residence. Resource



<p>20</p>	<p>We have several families that have found permanent housing outside of our school district and we have been providing them with transportation to complete this school year. Is the school district responsible for transportation for the upcoming school year?</p>	<p>Yes, if the family has permanently relocated to another school district, you may guide the parent to enroll their students at the boundary school for the permanent address for the upcoming school year.</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>How far is too far to travel to the school of origin?</p>	<p>The McKinney-Vento Act does not specify any mileage or time limit for travel to the school of origin. The Act requires LEAs to provide transportation to the school of origin at the request of a parent or guardian or, for unaccompanied youth, at the McKinney-Vento liaison’s request [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)]. Therefore, whenever a student is attending the school of origin, providing transportation is required.</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>In the event that a child’s temporary housing is located in a different LEA from the school of origin, which district is financially responsible for the child’s education?</p>	<p>The McKinney-Vento Act first gives LEAs and states the flexibility to agree upon a method to apportion transportation cost and responsibility. The Act further states that in the absence of agreement, the two districts must apportion cost and responsibility equally [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)].</p>
<p>Supporting Academic Success</p>		
<p>23</p>	<p>What are Graduation Pathways?</p>	<p>Students in the graduating class of 2023 must satisfy at least one option from each of the three boxes in order to graduate. The three boxes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High School Diploma- students must complete the course & credit requirements for the HS diploma, 2. Learn & Demonstrate Employability Skills- students must complete a Project-Based, Service-Based, or Work-Based Learning Experience; 3. Postsecondary-Ready Competency- students must complete at least one approved option. <p>Resource</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>Is Graduation Pathways required?</p>	<p>Yes, Graduation Pathways is the requirement for students beginning in the graduating class of 2023. Resource</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>If the youth has been attending another school, what obligation does the enrolling school have to give</p>	<p>All McKinney-Vento students, including those who have been out of school, can receive “appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, in accordance with state, local, and school policies” [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(F)(ii)].</p>



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

	him/her credit for partial coursework completed at the prior school?	
Fiscal		
26	Do school corporations involved have a financial responsibility for the transportation costs of homeless children and youth?	The U.S. Department of Education suggests LEAs develop a system of providing gas vouchers, cards or mileage reimbursement to parents or youth who have cars and are able to provide transportation, as a cost-effective means to meet the district’s obligation. If a parent is providing the transportation for their child, the district must pay the parent mileage reimbursement consistent with what a district employee would receive. For example, the district cannot pay a mileage reimbursement rate that is less than the LEA mileage rate for employees. Additionally, in most instances, the district will need to provide reimbursement for both the time while the student is in the vehicle with the parent and the mileage for the parent’s return trip to their residence. Resource
27	Who do I contact to receive McKinney-Vento subgrant & ARP-HCY I & II reimbursement and amendment forms?	You may request McKinney-Vento subgrant & ARP-HCY I & II reimbursement and amendment forms by contacting McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov .
28	What are allowable expenses under ARP-HCY II Funding?	In explaining the expedited timeline and truncated process for issuing its ARP Homeless II rules , ED noted that ARP-HCY funds are intended to support the specific and urgent needs of students experiencing homelessness, “including reduced identification of such students, decreased enrollment in school, interrupted classroom instruction, and challenges navigating services for shelter/housing, clothing and school supplies, food, and child care.” ED also stated that ARP-HCY funds “will support the work of the designated homeless liaison in each local education agency (LEA), as required by the McKinney-Vento Act, and build capacity in LEAs, which will help to identify greater numbers of students experiencing homelessness and better coordinate services for those students in LEAs receiving funding through this formula.” Resource
29	Does ARP-HCY I funding end on September 30, 2023??	The deadline for ARP-HCY I & II funding is September 30, 2024.
30	Is there a list of McKinney Vento subgrant allowable expenses?	Please see McKinney-Vento Subgrant Authorized Activities .



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

31	<p>We have a graduating senior, identified as an unaccompanied youth during his senior year, who has outstanding fees for books, etc. They were incurred prior to his homelessness. These fees may prevent him from “walking” at graduation. Can we consider these fees a “barrier” to graduation and advocate for them to be waived?</p>	<p>Yes, the McKinney-Vento Act would cover all homeless, unaccompanied youth. Specifically, McKinney-Vento requires SEAs and LEAs to develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless students in school, including barriers due to fees, fines, and absences. 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(I). Even though the fees were incurred prior to homelessness, they now are acting as a barrier to the student’s “enrollment.” The law defines enrollment as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities,” and graduation is a school activity. Therefore, barriers to participating in graduation caused by fees must be removed. This might be waiving the fee, or using McKinney-Vento or other funds to pay the fee. But the barrier must be removed.</p> <p>Resource: SchoolHouse Connection</p>
32	<p>Do all LEAs need to be part of a consortium to apply for the McKinney Vento subgrant?</p>	<p>No, LEAs are not required to apply for the McKinney-Vento Subgrant as a consortium. You may apply for the McKinney-Vento subgrant as an individual LEA as well.</p>
33	<p>If we serve less than 50 students in our homeless population are there other resources or grants we can apply for?</p>	<p>You may use your Title I set-aside funding, if available, to assist your homeless students.</p> <p>You may also utilize your American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children & Youth, ARP-HCY I and/or ARP-HCY II funding. This funding was made available to assist homeless children & youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. ARP-HCY I & II funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024.</p>
Disputes & Enforcement		
34	<p>Does the McKinney-Vento Act contain procedures for resolving disputes?</p>	<p>Yes. The McKinney-Vento Act requires each state to establish its own procedures to resolve disputes promptly [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(C)].</p> <p>LEAs must use these dispute procedures for all disputes over eligibility, school selection or enrollment [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(E)].</p> <p>IDOE LEA McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Procedure IDOE LEA McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Form</p>
35	<p>Must school districts provide transportation during disputes?</p>	<p>Yes, to the extent it would be required if there were no dispute.</p> <p>While disputes are pending, students must be enrolled in the school in which they are seeking enrollment. If that school is the school of origin, the LEA(s) involved must provide adequate and appropriate transportation. 2017 Guidance, J-4; [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(1)(J)(iii), (g)(3)(E)(i)].</p>
36	<p>If a student’s temporary housing is across state lines</p>	<p>Yes. Since the McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law, it applies as in any other situation. Therefore, if the student is attending the school of</p>



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

	from the school of origin, is transportation still required?	origin, transportation must be provided at the parent’s/guardian’s request or at the McKinney-Vento liaison’s request, in the case of an unaccompanied youth. Communication among the involved liaisons and State Coordinators can facilitate the provision of services.
Preschool		
37	Does the McKinney-Vento Act define the term pre-school?	While the term “preschool” is not defined in the McKinney-Vento Act, the definition used for McKinney-Vento data collection by the U.S. Department of Education is a helpful reference: “early childhood education programs for children aged 0-5, funded through tax dollars or other public funds, and for which the LEA is a financial or administrative agent or for which the LEA is accountable for providing early childhood education services.”
38	Are there additional factors that should be considered for keeping preschool aged children at their preschool of origin?	When making a placement decision for preschoolers, the same best interest factors should be considered as with other students. However, it is important to understand how changes may impact preschoolers differently than older students.
39	How do the McKinney-Vento Act requirements apply to preschool children?	To the extent that an LEA offers a public education to preschool children, including LEAadministered Head Start programs, an LEA must meet the McKinney-Vento Act requirements for homeless children in preschool, including ensuring that a homeless child remains in his or her public preschool of origin, unless a determination is made that it is not in the child’s best interest [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(1)(F)(i), (g)(3)(I); 2017 Guidance, N-4.]
Private Schools		
40	What obligations do private schools have under the McKinney-Vento Act?	The McKinney-Vento Act does not apply to schools that are entirely privately funded. Therefore, private schools are not required to allow children who become homeless to continue to attend or to provide transportation.

For additional information, please email Mckinneyventopoc@doe.in.gov.

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