**ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE, APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**Including children and youth with:**

* **Uncertain housing**
* **A temporary address**
* **No permanent physical address**

The federal McKinney-Vento Act guarantees school enrollment for anyone who, due to a lack of housing, does not have a **fixed**, **regular**, and **adequate** night time residence. Such children and youth may live:

* In an emergency shelter or transitional housing,
* In a motel, hotel, or campground due to the lack of an adequate alternative,
* In a car, park, public place, bus or train station, or abandoned building,
* Doubled up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship,
* In these conditions and be a migratory child or youth, or
* In these conditions and be a youth not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Children and youth living in these settings may meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and have additional educational rights.**

**Where can a child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate residence attend school?**

* The school the child or youth attended before becoming homeless or was last enrolled (school of origin), or
* The school in the attendance area where the child or youth is currently living

**How can delays be avoided when enrolling a student experiencing homelessness in school?**

* Enroll the student immediately
* Contact the previous school and ask that the records be sent electronically or shared over the phone.
* Contact the principal, school counselor, or local homeless education liaison with any concerns.
* Contact the local homeless education liaison to support unaccompanied youth when enrolling in school.

**Where can I get help?**

[**Find My Local Homeless Education Liaison**](https://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/liaison-listing/a-b/index.php)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

Phone Number: 757-221-4002, Toll Free: 877-455-3412

Fax: 757-221-5300

[E-mail](mailto:homlss@wm.edu)

[Website](http://www.wm.edu/hope)