



Lake County School Board

FAMILIES IN TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION for School-Age Youth

Special points of interest: On a regular basis, children and youth report that school is a home to them – a place where they see the same faces, sit in the same seat, and can put their hearts and minds into pursuits that ease their daily troubles. In school, students gain the skills and support needed to avoid poverty and homelessness as adults.

You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

IF YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- In a shelter.
 - In a motel or campground due to the lack of a alternative adequate accommodation.
 - In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station.
 - Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
 - Substandard Housing—lack of water, electric, unfit for habitation. [Federal Definition of Substandard Housing](#)
- #### ELIGIBLE STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is their preference and is feasible.
- If the school district believes that the school selected is not in his/her best interest, then the district must provide the student with a written explanation of its position and inform the student of his/her right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student's needs.

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The National Center on Family Homelessness

Resources for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Students experiencing homelessness may need extra assistance transitioning into the school year. School is often the one stable place where children who are homeless can interact with their peers, eat healthy meals, and feel safe. Students experiencing homelessness may be returning to school without the means to purchase new clothes, supplies, or books, among other challenges.

McKinney-Vento liaisons, teachers, guidance counselors and other providers working with youth must have an understanding of the challenges these students face – and the best ways to meet students' needs. A list of ten resources to share best practices in improving services and programs to help meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness follows:

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)

[Facts About Homeless Education](#) This resource provides basic information on the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness, the definition of homelessness, and how homelessness affects the education of young people.

National Center for Homeless Education

[A McKinney-Vento Toolbox: Constructing a Robust and Rigorous Homeless Education Program, in Case of Disaster and Every Day](#) This toolbox was developed following the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. Designed for school districts, these tools will help administrators fully implement the McKinney-Vento Act on a daily basis and also during times of disaster.

[Classrooms with Revolving Doors: Recommended Practices for Teachers of At-Risk and Highly Mobile Students Elementary Schools](#) and [Middle Level and High School](#) These issue briefs highlight the challenges teachers face in addressing the needs of students experiencing homelessness. Based on research and case studies, both briefs offer recommendations to teachers working with highly mobile students.

[Collaborations of Schools and Social Service Agencies](#) This report analyzes examples of schools and social service agencies collaborating to assist children experiencing homelessness. Common barriers, service strategies, and innovative programs are all featured in this resource.

[Educating Homeless Children and Youth: Conducting Needs Assessments and Evaluating Services – A Guide for SEAs, LEAs, and Local Schools](#) This publication aims to help school district personnel strengthen current procedures for needs assessments, program evaluation, and data collection to improve homeless education programs.

[Homeless Education Issue Briefs](#) This series of briefs cover all aspects of the McKinney-Vento Act and implementation strategies.

National Runaway Switchboard

[Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum](#) This interactive curriculum focuses on educating about alternatives to running away and provides resources for runaways and those working with the runaway population.

The National Center on Family Homelessness

[What About You? A Workbook for Those Who Work with Others](#) Sometimes those who work with others can experience burnout and forget to take care of themselves. This workbook helps service providers focus on their own self-care, which is important to maintaining healthy relationships and a positive work environment.

**Best Practices in Homeless Education
(National Center For Homeless Education)**

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, schools must identify children and youth in homeless situations and provide appropriate services. One such service is immediate enrollment in school, even when students lack paperwork normally required for enrollment, such as school records, proof of guardianship, a birth certificate, immunization or other health records, and proof of residence. In complying with the immediate enrollment mandate, some school districts may be concerned that families or youth may claim falsely to be homeless in order to gain access to services for which they are not eligible or to gain enrollment in a school outside of their local attendance area.

Due to the stigma associated with homelessness, the vast majority of students seeking eligibility for services under McKinney-Vento do so in good faith and with good reason. If a question arises about a student's eligibility, schools may wish to confirm the details of the student's living situation. **All such efforts must be grounded in sensitivity and respect, keeping the academic well-being and best interest of the student in the forefront.** Using invasive or threatening techniques to confirm a student's eligibility can humiliate families and youth and may place an already tenuous temporary living arrangement in jeopardy. This may destabilize the family or youth further and may create a barrier to the student's enrollment, thereby violating the McKinney-Vento Act. Additionally, employing these techniques may violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

It's great to know you can count on people to go the extra mile.

THANK YOU:

- St. Paul Parish National Catholic Church
- Lake Cares Food Bank
- Summit Green Women's Club
- Love Extension
- Educational Foundation
- Community members



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FIT IS ON FACE BOOK

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
FAMILIESINTRANSITIONOFLAKECOUN
TYSCHOOLS?REF=HL](https://www.facebook.com/FAMILIESINTRANSITIONOFLAKECOUNTYSCHOOLS?REF=HL)

Were you aware that 2/3 of the adults experiencing homelessness have not received a high school diploma or completed a GED?

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Click on pictures for link

United Way 211
Community Directory



Lake County
Community Resource



GREAT RESOURCES



COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

There are specific things you can do during each year of high school to plan and prepare for college. Use this college planning checklist to keep track of your progress and important application deadlines.

<http://www.actstudent.org/college/checklist/>