

Who is a Homeless Student? (cont'd)

This includes those:

- Sharing the housing of others due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, foreclosure, eviction, or a similar reason.
- Living in transitional living or emergency shelters.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds
- Abandoned in hospitals; awaiting foster care placement (**Effective December 10, 2016: "awaiting foster care placement" will no longer be eligible for McKinney-Vento services*)
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed or intended as sleeping accommodations for humans, such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in any of the above situations.
- "Unaccompanied youth" which is defined as a youth in one of the above situations and is not in the custody of a parent or court appointed guardian.

Homeless Youth Educational Rights under McKinney-Vento

- Choice of either their school or origin ("home school") or the temporarily relocated area school.
- Must have access to all programs and services for which they are
- Equal treatment and no segregation/ singling out due to status.
- Removal of all barriers to enrollment and attendance.
- Free breakfast and lunch.
- Transportation to and from school (if meets guidelines).
- Receive information regarding educational and related opportunities available to student(s), along with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of your student(s).
- Right to dispute an eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Emergency Shelter

[Covenant House - Youth Shelter](#) (973) 621-8705

[Hope House – Women & Children](#)

(201) 420-1070

[The Hoboken Shelter](#) (201) 656-5069

[St. Lucy's Shelter](#) (201) 656-7201

[PERC Shelter](#) (201) 348-8150

Crisis Hotlines

[Hudson County Homeless Hotline For Families](#)

1-800-624-0287

[National Runaway Switchboard](#)

1-800-786-2929

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

1-800-273-TALK (8255) [24/7 hotline]

1-888-628-9454 (Spanish)

[NJ Alcohol and Drug Addiction Hotline](#)

1-800-238-2333

[NJ Child Abuse/ Neglect Hotline](#)

1-877-NJ ABUSE/(1-877-652-2873)

[NJ Child Care Help Line](#) 1-800-332-9227

[NJ Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

1-800-572-SAFE/1-800-572-7233

Other Services

[Covenant House- Jersey City Youth Drop-In Center & Outreach Services](#)

Cell 609-513-7373/ Office 201-433-0234

[Garden State Episcopal CDC – social services for the homeless](#)

(201)604-2600 x300

[The Adolescent Housing Hub](#) 1(877)652-7624

[Hudson County Coalition for a Drug Free community](#)

(201)552-2264

[Hudson County Welfare](#) (201)420-3000

[Hudson Pride Connections Center](#)

(201)963-4779

[Women Rising](#) (201) 333-5700

***For more information and additional resources please contact your child's District Homeless Liaison, listed on the inside of this brochure.**



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Services for & Rights of School-Aged Homeless Youths Under McKinney-Vento



What is McKinney Vento?

The *McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act* is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. It provides funding to States for the purpose of supporting programs that serve homeless students. This is ensured by the District's Homeless Education Liaison, who also ensures **no student is segregated or singled out** due to their status.

Who is a Homeless Student?

A "homeless" student is defined as; a child or youth lacking a fixed, permanent, and adequate nighttime residence.

Your Child(ren)'s Homeless Liaison

If your child is an eligible McKinney-Vento student they will be assigned a homeless liaison to help with the following:

- Assist homeless students in meeting academic goals
- Are available during the regular business day to answer any questions parents, students or school staff may have.
- They can help assist with immediate enrollment of students who may need to change schools due to homelessness.
- Provides information about community resources for various needs, and coordinates transportation to ensure students can attend school.
- Assists with obtaining needed documentation for the student's file (birth certificate, immunizations, social security card, previous records, etc.).
- Regularly communicates with families and school staff to ensure that homeless children are receiving needed services.

Services Offered for Qualified McKinney-Vento Students

- Transportation to and from school (*if more than 2.5 miles*)
- School supplies/uniforms
- Additional educational programs and support
- Automatic enrollment in free breakfast and lunch program
- Waive required school fees and other student fees associated to exams or educational programs
- Referrals for clothes, food, and additional resources as needed
- School physicals and immunizations
- Cap-and-gown fees
- Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes
- Counseling Services to address anxiety(related to homelessness)

As a Youth, Understand:

- You are **NOT ALONE.**
- There are many services that can help you like guidance counselors, school liaisons, and hotline resources.
- Speak to someone at your school or contact your district Homeless Liaison listed on the back for this pamphlet.
- You have a **RIGHT** to education services, regardless of your status, which are protected by these resources.

As a Parent, You Should:

- Know and understand your rights pertaining to homelessness
- Clearly state to the liaison, shelter and/or school administrator the needs of child(ren)
- Communicate with your child's local liaison on a regular basis.
- Meet the teachers immediately and follow up with them regularly to find out how your child is doing academically and socially.
- Work with the school counselor to help your child adjust to changes in the
- be affecting schoolwork.
- Get to know the principals, secretaries, nurses, bus drivers, and social workers.



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
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District Homeless Liaison Numbers

BAYONNE CITY

Mr. Robert Craig (201)858-5843

EAST NEWARK BORO

Ms. Shelley Harrison (973)481-6800 Ext. 227

GUTTENBERG TOWN

Mrs. Angela Travelli (201)861-3100 Ext. 15

HARRISON TOWN

Mrs. Joan McNichol (973)482-5050 Ext. 1519

HOBOKEN

Mr. William James (201)356-3753

HUDSON COUNTY VOCATIONAL

Mr. Steven Finn (201)631-6315

JERSEY CITY

Mr. John Ross (201)413-5760

KEARNY TOWN

Mrs. Donna Wagner-Nigro (201)955-5128

Ms. Kelly Lindenfesler (201)955-5082

NORTH BERGEN TWP

Mr. John Belluardo (201)295-2828

SECAUCUS TOWN

(201)974-2000 Ext. 2082

UNION CITY

Dr. Delia Menendez (201)271-2289 Ext. 1061

WEEHAWKEN TWP

Mr. Alfred Orecchio (201) 422-6134

WEST NEW YORK TOWN

Ms. Beverly Lazzara (201)553-4000 Ext. 30604

State Coordinator

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program
New Jersey Department of Education

Phone: 609 984-4974