

## YOU can STILL Enroll in School!

Is your residence or housing uncertain?

Do you live at a temporary address?

Do you lack a permanent physical address?

The McKinney Vento Act and West Virginia state law and policy guarantee that you can enroll in school if you 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 substandard housing (no electricity, no water, and/or no heat)
- with friends or family because you are a runaway or unaccompanied youth

### You May Be Eligible to:

- continue to attend the school in which you were last enrolled, even if you have moved away from that school's attendance zone or district if it is feasible and in the best interest of the child.
- receive transportation from the current residence back to the school of origin.

## Enrolling In School

Contact the new school for immediate enrollment, or contact the district's liaison for help enrolling or for transportation consideration to the previous school.

Contact the district's liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process.

Provide any information necessary to assist teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances.

Ask the local liaison, shelter staff, or a social worker for assistance with records, clothing, and supplies if needed.

### Questions to Ask the School

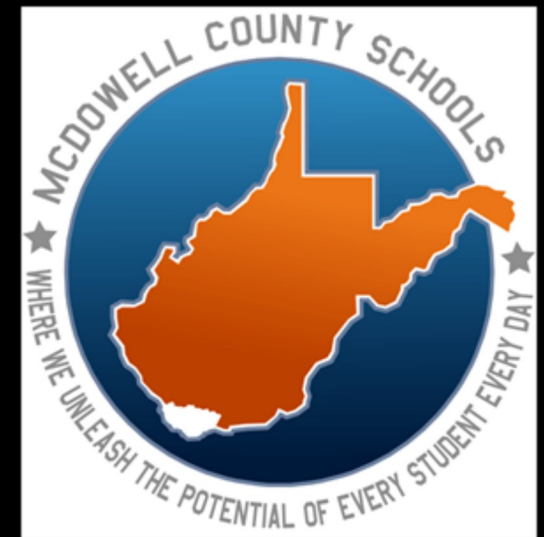
- What transportation is available to stay in the same school?
- If I have to change schools, can someone help transfer records quickly?
- If special education services are needed, how long is the wait for testing?
- Are there sports, music, or other activities available to me?
- Are school supplies available?

McDowell County Schools  
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CONTACT US

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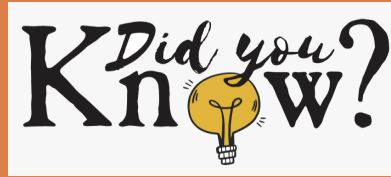
## Supporting the Education of Children Experiencing Homelessness to Ensure Every Student Succeeds



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## Who is Considered Homeless?

- individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds, emergency or transitional shelters, or abandoned hospitals due to lack of alternative accommodations'
- children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or trains stations, or any other similar settings
- migratory children fitting into any of the above groups



- There are half of a million children who attended more than three schools between first and third grade.
- Approximately 15-18% of school-age children changed residences from the previous year. Frequent school changes have been correlated with lower academic achievement, which may take four to six months to recover.
- Mobile students are twice as likely to repeat a grade.
- Mobile students are half as likely to graduate from high school.
- Students who move frequently have lower attendance rates. A low attendance rate is directly related to lower academic achievement.
- Mobile students have not had the opportunity to build the relationships needed to be successful in school or in life.

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## Educational Rights Under the McKinney-Vento Act

Students who are homeless have the following rights regardless of where they live or how long they have lived there. They have the right to:

- attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest.
- be provided transportation to and from the school of origin.
- enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollments such as birth certificates, proof of residence, previous school records, immunization records.
- enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records.
- access the same programs and services that are available to all other students, including transportation and other supplemental education services.
- attend school with children not experiencing homelessness. Segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited.
- receive referrals to health services, housing, and other appropriate services.
- access early interventions such as Head Start, public preschool, and early interventions.
- have assistance with credit recovery

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) supports educators, service providers, parents, community members, and others interested in the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

