

Rights under the McKinney-Vento Act include the following:

- Right to immediate enrollment of school
- Right to the choice to either attend the school of origin or in the attendance area where the family currently resides
- Right to be provided with comparable services including transportation services, educational services, and meals through school meals programs
- Right that no homeless child or youth is required to attend separate school or program for homeless children or youths
- Right that homeless children and youths should not be stigmatized by school personnel
- Right to appeal if the local school sends the homeless child or youth to a school other than the school of origin requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth.

HOMEWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

450 Dale Ave
Homewood Al. 35209
Phone: 205-870-3026
www.homewood.k12.al.us

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*Education of
Homeless
Children and
Youth*

A Guide For Parents

What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

A law passed in 1987 and re-authorized in 2002 under the No Child Left Behind Act. This Act removes barriers to access or success of homeless children in school.

How does the law define homelessness (McKinney-Vento Definition)?

“Homeless” - An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes those:

- Sharing housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc. or places not designated for

Enrollment Disputes

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school;

- The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.
- Any enrollment dispute of a homeless student shall first be presented to the school principal to be resolved.
- The parent/guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment.
- If the matter is not resolved at that level, the dispute shall be brought to the homeless liaison that shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall ensure the youth is immediately enrolled in the school pending resolution of the dispute



“The mission of the Homewood City Schools, a system enriched by tradition, community spirit, and vision, is to empower every student to reach his or her unique potential, ensured by a dedicated and exemplary staff, a supportive and involved community, the recognition and celebration of diversity, an optimal use of resources, and an uncompromising commitment to excellence.”

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