

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT:

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Understanding Homelessness & Education

Homelessness poses significant challenges to the education of children and youth, including school enrollment, stability, and academic achievement.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, enacted in 1987 and reauthorized in 2001 and 2015, ensures that homeless children and youth have equal access to education and receive the necessary support to overcome barriers to academic success.

KEY PROVISIONS

Distinct Definition of Homelessness: McKinney-Vento provides a broad definition of homelessness, including individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

RIGHT TO IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT:

The Act ensures that homeless children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even without typical enrollment documents (e.g., proof of residency or immunization records).

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES:

Mandates that homeless students receive additional services to support their educational success. These services may include tutoring, counseling, mentoring, & other assistance.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Establishes procedures for resolving disputes related to the enrollment, placement, and transportation of homeless students. This ensures that conflicts are addressed promptly and fairly.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE:

The Act requires school districts to provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin, if feasible, to ensure continuity of education.

SCHOOL STABILITY:

Prioritizes maintaining school stability for homeless students, allowing them to continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when they first became homeless) or the school they last attended, even if they change residence.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Prohibits schools from segregating or stigmatizing homeless students based on their housing status and emphasizes the importance of treating all students with dignity and respect.