



## What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

The **Federal McKinney-Vento (M-V) Act** defines homelessness as *lacking a "fixed, regular, and adequate" nighttime residence*. Students who have lost their housing due to economic hardship or disaster are covered under the M-V Act.

### Students may be eligible for services if they are:

- Living with friends or others
- Shared housing due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, safety concerns, etc.
- Living in a transitional shelter or housing program
- Living unsheltered (in a park, car, tent, campground, etc.)
- Living in a motel
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Migratory children living in these conditions

## Rights Under M-V Act

Students in Pre-School Through 12th Grade Have Educational Rights Under The M-V Act.

### Students Have the Right To:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if they lack documents normally required for enrollment (i.e. permanent address, records, immunizations)
- Enroll in the resident district school or continue in their school of origin. If either school district feels the school you select is not in the best interest of the student, they will provide a written explanation and inform you of your right to appeal the decision
- Receive transportation to their school of origin, if requested
- Receive free lunch if the school participates in the School Nutrition Program
- Participate in extracurricular activities and all federal, state or local programs for which they are eligible
- Access the same programs and services that are available to all other students

## What About My Child in Preschool?

Pre-K students attending state or federally funded programs (GSRP, Head Start, ESCE) are also eligible for McKinney-Vento Act services:

- Immediate enrollment, even if lacking key documents (if space is available)
- Right to continue in school of origin (if in the best interest of the child)
- Receive transportation to continue in school of origin (if in the best interest of the child)

## What if I Am Not Enrolled in School?

If you have stopped attending school or have dropped out, your school district's M-V Liaison can help connect you to services including re-enrollment in school.

## What if I Am Alone?

Youth who are separated from their guardian/parents are eligible for help from their district's M-V Liaison. The Liaison can help you with:

- Enrollment
- Scheduling transportation to school of origin
- School supplies
- Referrals for community services

## We Want To Hear From You If You Think Your Rights Have Been Violated

- You have the right to dispute eligibility and enrollment decisions.
- Please call your local liaison and tell them your concern. You will work together on a solution. If your complaint is with a local school, they will follow district procedures to help resolve it.
- If you feel like your needs weren't met, you will be put into contact with Rayme Martineau, who oversees the program, within 48 hours.
- If we are unable to reach a resolution locally, we will advise how to file a written complaint with the Michigan Department of Education.

## Tips For Families Who Move Often

- Always have ready a copy of your birth certificate and school records accessible.
- Safeguard all health and immunization records.
- Have a reliable person keep a second copy of your birth certificate, school records, and health information.
- Enroll in school as soon as possible.

For more information visit:



[www.maresa.org](http://www.maresa.org)

- Click Quick Links (top right)
  - Click McKinney-Vento
- Information Includes:**
- M-V Education Support (left side)
  - Helpful Websites/Resources (left side)
  - M-V Student Data Information (right side)

### U.P. Coordinator

Rachel Bloch, 906-226-5139  
[rbloch@maresa.org](mailto:rbloch@maresa.org)

### National Center for Homeless Education:

Website: [www.nche.ed.gov](http://www.nche.ed.gov)

Email: [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)

Toll Free: 1-800-308-2145

### Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services

MDHHS within your county:

[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs)

Emergency and other community assistance information available

24/7 - Just Dial: 211

### *Have a question?*

If you believe you may be eligible, **contact the local liaison below** to find out what services and supports may be available.

Kevin Karkkainen

[kkarkkainen@mc-isd.org](mailto:kkarkkainen@mc-isd.org)

906-863-5665

## Upper Peninsula



## McKinney-Vento

## Do You Know Your Educational Rights?

## Students in Transition

### U.P. Coordinator

Rachel Bloch, 906-226-5139  
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### State Coordinator

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