

**Resources from The National Center for Homeless Education**

**Toll-free Helpline:** 800-308-2145  
**website:** <http://www.serve.org/nche>

NCHE can explain your child's school rights and tell you how to contact the local liaison in your school district. The local liaison can help enroll your child in school and make sure that your child receives the help that he/she needs.



**Contact Us**

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**Information for  
Students  
&  
Families Living  
in Transition**

**McKinney-Vento  
Homeless  
Assistance Act**



**SPRINGFIELD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Every Student, Every Day

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## Services We Provide:

- **Advocacy & Support**
- **Case Management**
- **Enrollment Assistance**
- **Receive Free Breakfast & Lunch**
- **Resource Referrals**
- **Shelter & Housing Referrals**
- **Transportation Assistance**

## MCKINNEY-VENTO

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law guaranteeing all children and youth the right to an equal education, regardless of their living situation. Unaccompanied youth includes a youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Protection under the McKinney-Vento Act extends to those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living:

- in emergency or transitional shelters
- in a motel, hotel, or campground
- in car, park, public place, bus, train station, abandoned building, or other structure not meant for housing
- doubled up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- an unaccompanied youth (not living with parent or guardian) living in a temporary situation
- Qualified migrant children and youth in the above living circumstances

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

- Attend the local school or the school of origin, if this is in the best interest of the child; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment, such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records.
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school gathers records.
- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students, including transportation assistance.
- Due to the recognition of unaccompanied youth by the McKinney-Vento Act, the absence of a parent or guardian is not sufficient reason to delay or deny enrollment. Unaccompanied eligible youth must be placed into appropriate classes at the time of enrollment.
- These rights are established under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This act is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. To qualify for these rights, children and youth must be considered homeless according to the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.