

Information for School-Age Youth

You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

If you live in any of the following situations:

- A shelter.
- A motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation.
- A car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station.
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship.



As an eligible student you have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending your school of origin (the school you attended when permanently housed or the school in which you were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.

If the school district believes that the school selected is not in your best interest, the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your needs as a student.

If you believe you may be eligible, contact one of the individuals below to find out what services and supports may be available.



Local Contact

James Martin
Hebron Elementary Principal
219-996-4771

Deepali Jani
State Coordinator
(317) 460-1340

The Indiana Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program exists to help students who experience homelessness by offering a wide variety of services to help during this time of change and stress.



Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth (INEHCY)



Life is uncertain, but your child's education doesn't have to be.

Even if you lack a permanent residence, your children can receive help to stay in their home school district.

INDIANA EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

Every child deserves school stability.



Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth (INEHCY)

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act can help provide school stability for your child if you do not have a permanent home and are:

- Staying with friends or family because you lost housing.
- Living in a shelter, including transitional programs.
- Staying in motels because you cannot get your own home.
- Living on the streets, in a car, van, tent or other nonpermanent structure.

Information and Resources

CHIP – Coalition for Homelessness
Intervention and Prevention
www.chipindy.org
(317) 630-0853

National Center for Homeless
Education (NCHE)
nche.ed.gov (800) 308-2145

National Association for the Education
of Homeless Children and Youth
(NAEHYC)
www.naehcy.org • (866) 862-2562

National Law Center on
Homelessness and Poverty
www.nlchp.org • (202) 638-2535

SERVE Improving Learning
through Research and
Development
www.center.serve.org/nche
(800) 308-2145 (Toll-free)

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov
(800) USA-LEARN • (800) 872-5327
(Toll Free)

Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth INEHCY

Deepali Jani, State Coordinator
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program
Office of Student Services
Indiana Dept. of Education
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600 Indianapolis, IN 46204
Office: 317.233.3372
Cell (317) 460-1340 (Text/Direct)
Office Hours: 7:30am-4:00pm

E-mail: djani@doe.in.gov
Website: www.doe.in.gov
Keyword: Homeless Program

Homeless Liaison Contact Information

James Martin
Hebron Elementary Principal
219-996-4771

A Parent's Guide to the Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



www.doe.in.gov

The Rights of Homeless Parents and their Children

Your child has the right to:

- ▶ Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there;
- ▶ Stay in the school that he or she was attending before becoming homeless or the school he or she last attended, if that is your choice and best interest of the child;
- ▶ Enroll in school immediately, even if you do not have all the paperwork, such as your child's school or medical records;
- ▶ Access the same special programs and services that are provided to other children, including special education, migrant education and vocational education;
- ▶ Receive the same public education that is provided to other children, including preschool. (Your child cannot be separated from the mainstream school environment because he or she is homeless. He or she cannot be segregated in a separate school, separate programs within a school or separate settings within a school).

If your child is assigned to a school not of your choosing, the school district must explain its decision in writing.

You have the right to appeal the district's decision regarding the school to which your child has been assigned. Your child has the right to go to the school of your choice while the dispute is being resolved.

If you move, you should...

- ▶ Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school;
- ▶ Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to the new situation;
- ▶ Tell the school the date you are leaving and start the transfer of your records;
- ▶ Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including:
 - ▶ An updated transcript;
 - ▶ The grade your child is in;
 - ▶ Any important medical information about your child's needs;
 - ▶ Scores your child on any standardized tests;
 - ▶ If possible, allow your child to say goodbye to friends and teachers.



How you can help your child?

- ▶ Make sure your child attends school every day;
- ▶ Read to your child. Even a few minutes a day makes a difference;
- ▶ Make education a family priority;
- ▶ Help your child develop good study habits;
- ▶ Meet with your child's teachers and other school personnel.

McKinney-Vento Program

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program was designed to make sure all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as children and youth who are not homeless. This includes preschool education.

State and local educational agencies are required to develop, review and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance and success in school that homeless children and youth may experience.

Local educational agencies also must provide homeless children and youth with the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held.