

Bridging the gap between home and school.

Pre-School Children and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- The McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, reauthorized as part of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2002, entitles homeless children to a free, appropriate public education, including a pre-school education. [721(1)]
- States must ensure that homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the State agency, as provided to other children in the State. [722(g)(i)(F)(i)]
- Under the McKinney-Vento Act, every LEA must designate a liaison for students in homeless situations. [722(g)(1)(J)(ii)]
- LEA homeless liaisons must ensure that ensure that homeless children are identified, immediately enrolled in school, informed about educational rights, including transportation, and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start programs and preschool programs administered by the LEA. [722(g)(6)(A)(iii)]
- State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth must coordinate with social services agencies, child development and preschool program personnel and other agencies to provide comprehensive services to preschoolers [722(f)(4) and (5)(A)]

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