

## **History of McKinney-Vento Law**

### **McKinney-Vento: Federal homeless education legislation**

During the 1980s, the federal government recognized the magnitude of the problem of homelessness within our country and, more specifically, the increasing incidences of homelessness among families with children and unaccompanied youth. To address this issue, Congress passed the Stewart B. McKinney Act, reauthorized most recently as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This act guarantees homeless children and youth the following:

The right to immediate enrollment in school, even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment.

In January 1995, the Illinois Education For Homeless Children Act of 1994 became law. This law established transportation as a right for McKinney-Vento eligible students.

The 2001 reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act ensured the educational rights and protections of these children and youth so that they may enroll in school, attend regularly, and succeed in educational opportunities. This reauthorized legislation requires a local homeless education liaison in every school district to assist children and unaccompanied youth in their efforts to achieve high standards in school.

### **The term homeless children and youth-**

A). Means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

B). Includes-

(i) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

(ii) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

(iii) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus/train stations, or similar settings, and

(iv) Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

This information along with additional information and resources can be found on the webpage of the Will County Regional Office of Education at <https://www.willroe.org/services/homeless>.

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