

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

National Center for Homeless Education

(NCHE) provides a variety of homeless education resources, available in electronic or hard copy format, including

- » Educational rights posters,
- » Enrollment reference foldouts,
- » Federal homeless education data reports,
- » Homeless liaison toolkits,
- » Issue briefs,
- » NCHE brochures,
- » Parent brochures,
- » Parent pack pocket folders, and
- » Unaccompanied homeless youth booklets

Visit <https://nche.ed.gov/products.php> to download or order NCHE resources.

The California Department of Education

(CDE) has legislations, strategies, and sample documents related to the McKinney-Vento Act students' rights to enroll and participate fully in school.

Visit <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/> to view and access resources and information available from the California Department of Education.

Kern County Homeless Collaborative (KCHC)

is a network of Kern County's organizations, agencies, public service providers, mental health and law enforcement agencies committed to ending homelessness and striving towards "housing first".

Visit <http://www.kernhomeless.org/> to view and access resources and services available in Kern County.

2-1-1 Kern County is a program of Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), providing information and referral services that link Kern County residents to community health, human services and support, including but not limited to

- » Children & Families
- » Housing
- » Mental Health
- » Legal Assistance
- » Transportation
- » Veteran & Military Services

To connect to 2-1-1 services, visit <http://www.211kerncounty.org/>, or call 2-1-1 on any available phone.

For additional assistance or questions regarding educational rights and support, please contact:

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
1300 17th Street – City Centre
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4533
(661) 636-4000

Kern County
Superintendent of Schools
Office of Mary C. Barlow ...advocates for children

Education Rights and Resources for Students in Transitional Housing



WHO IS CONSIDERED HOMELESS?

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youths” as children and youth who lack fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; including children and youth who are:

- » Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reasons; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals
- » Living at a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- » Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- » Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above;
- » Unaccompanied youth, including any youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, such as runaways, or youth denied housing by their families.



EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth 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 the school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), according to student's best interest.

“If the school district believes that the school selected is not in the student's best interest, the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its position and inform the parent, guardian, or youth of the right to appeal its decision.

- » Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- » Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's needs.
- » Receive free lunches for the duration of the school year.
- » Receive equal access to education and have school fees waived.
- » McKinney-Vento services can be provided to a student experiencing homelessness for the duration of the student's homelessness and for the duration of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed.

HELPFUL TIPS:

What else could parents/school sites do to identify and support the needs of McKinney-Vento students?

- » Tell the school that your child is moving and give them the new address
- » Schools and parents can discuss keeping the child at their school of origin while the family is locating permanent housing
- » Keep a copy of the child's school records, including immunizations. Immunization records are NOT required for immediate enrollment
- » While the family is locating permanent housing, the schools can help the parents enroll the child as soon as possible and minimize the amount of missed school days during transition.
- » Kern County homeless liaisons ensure that students experiencing homelessness are enrolled and provided with comparable educational services and resources to continue educational development and attain academic success.

Please follow the link below to contact the district/site liaison in your area:

<https://tinyurl.com/ygeobxtx>

