

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provides certain rights and protections for families experiencing homelessness. According to McKinney-Vento, anyone who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence is homeless.

Homelessness Includes Anyone:

- Living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- Abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camp grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
- “Doubled up” living with friends or family due to the loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason.
- An “unaccompanied youth” under the age of 18, living without a parent or guardian.
- Migratory children living in these conditions.



Homeless children have the right to:

- Attend school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there. you do not need a permanent address to enroll in school.
- Not be denied school enrollment just because school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- Enroll and attend classes in the parents’ school of choice even while the school and parents seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- Continue in the school they attended before they became homeless, if that is the parents’ choice and is feasible.
- Receive transportation to and from the school the child last attended prior to becoming homeless, if the parent/guardian requests it.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- Participate in extracurricular activities and all federal, state, or local programs for which he/she is eligible.

At School, Ask About These Special Services:

- Free breakfast and lunch programs
- Free transportation services
- Special transportation for children to remain in their home school
- Special education programs, especially if the student has previously received special education services
- Tutoring programs
- Programs to help children learn English
- Gifted or Talented programs
- Summer school programs
- Pre-school programs
- After-school programs
- Homeless assistance programs



Special Education

Children with special needs between the ages of 3 and 21 are eligible to receive a free, appropriate education provided through the public school system. Children with some disabilities are eligible for services from birth. Parents who believe their child may be eligible should request an educational

evaluation by contacting their child's school or the school district.

1-800-308-2145

What Your Family Can Do Before Moving

- Tell your child's Teacher, Principal, and School Social Worker that your child is moving, and give them the new address.
- Let school officials know if you want your child to stay in his/her home school while you are getting the family stabilized.
- Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including immunizations.



Tips for Families Who Move Often

- Keep a copy of birth certificates and school records accessible.
- Safeguard all health and immunization records.
- Have a reliable person keep a second copy of the child's birth certificate, school records and health information.
- Enroll children in school as soon as possible.



Contacts:

Waupaca School District
Director of Exceptional Education
Maureen Markon
715 258-4124

Waupaca School District
School Social Workers
Anne Collins-Reed
Or
Leah Zeamer
715 258-4141 or 258-4131

WI Department of Public Instruction
Coordinator – Education for Homeless
Children and Youth Program
Mary Maronek
(608) 261-6322

If you need further assistance,
call the National Center for Homeless
Education at the toll-free HelpLine:

If Homelessness Happens to You...

Your Child's Education

What Families Need To Know

