

# Supporting Students in Temporary Housing



## Students in Temporary Housing Attending NYC Charter Schools

**Presented By: NYS TEACHS**  
**Thursday, February 27, 2025**  
**9:30am-11:00am**



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# Webinar Format



- Today's session will be recorded.



- Your microphone will be automatically muted.



- Your camera will be automatically disabled.



- The in-webinar chat will allow you to communicate with the panelists and the host only.



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# Housekeeping



- We will launch poll questions periodically throughout the session and ask you to respond to questions in the chat.
- We won't be able to answer questions about specific situations in the chat, but we welcome you to call the Help Line to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Help Line is open 24 hours a day. Specialists are available from 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you leave a message, you will be called back by the next business day.
- Following today's webinar, today's recorded session, attachments, and Q&As will be posted/accessible.



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# Who Is in the Room?

## Are you a...

- New McKinney-Vento Liaison (1<sup>st</sup> Year)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (2-4 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (5-9 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (10+ years)
- Charter School Staff
- Non-Charter School/District Staff



## Which borough are you from?

- Brooklyn
- Bronx
- Manhattan
- Staten Island
- Queens



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# Session Outcomes



By the end of today's webinar, participants will be able to:

- Describe the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act and the responsibilities of the liaison.
- Identify the rights of students experiencing temporary housing and the charter school responsibility to ensure those rights.
- Describe the criteria for a student to be eligible for benefits as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Provide the benefits of immediate enrollment and transportation to eligible students.



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# Today's Agenda



Welcome! Who Is in the Room?



Data on Homelessness



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Key Provisions of McKinney-Vento



Summary, Resources, and Survey



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# Do You See the Child Experiencing Homelessness?

What role do you think charter schools play in supporting students in temporary housing?

Please  
respond in  
the chat. 😊

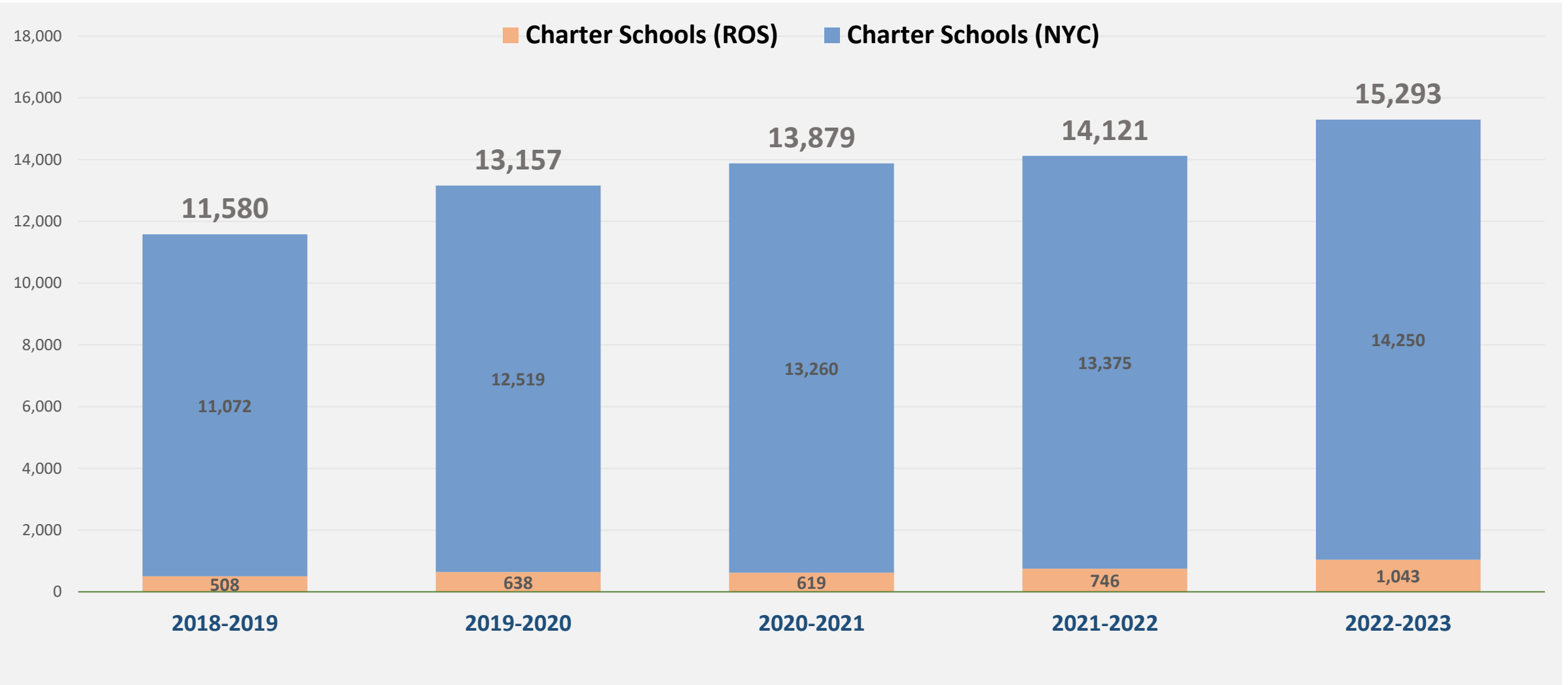


# Students Experiencing Homelessness in NY (2011-2023)





# Students Experiencing Homelessness in Charter Schools in New York State



# Data Discussion

What observations can you make from looking at the data?

What questions does the data raise?

DATA

Please  
respond in  
the chat. 😊

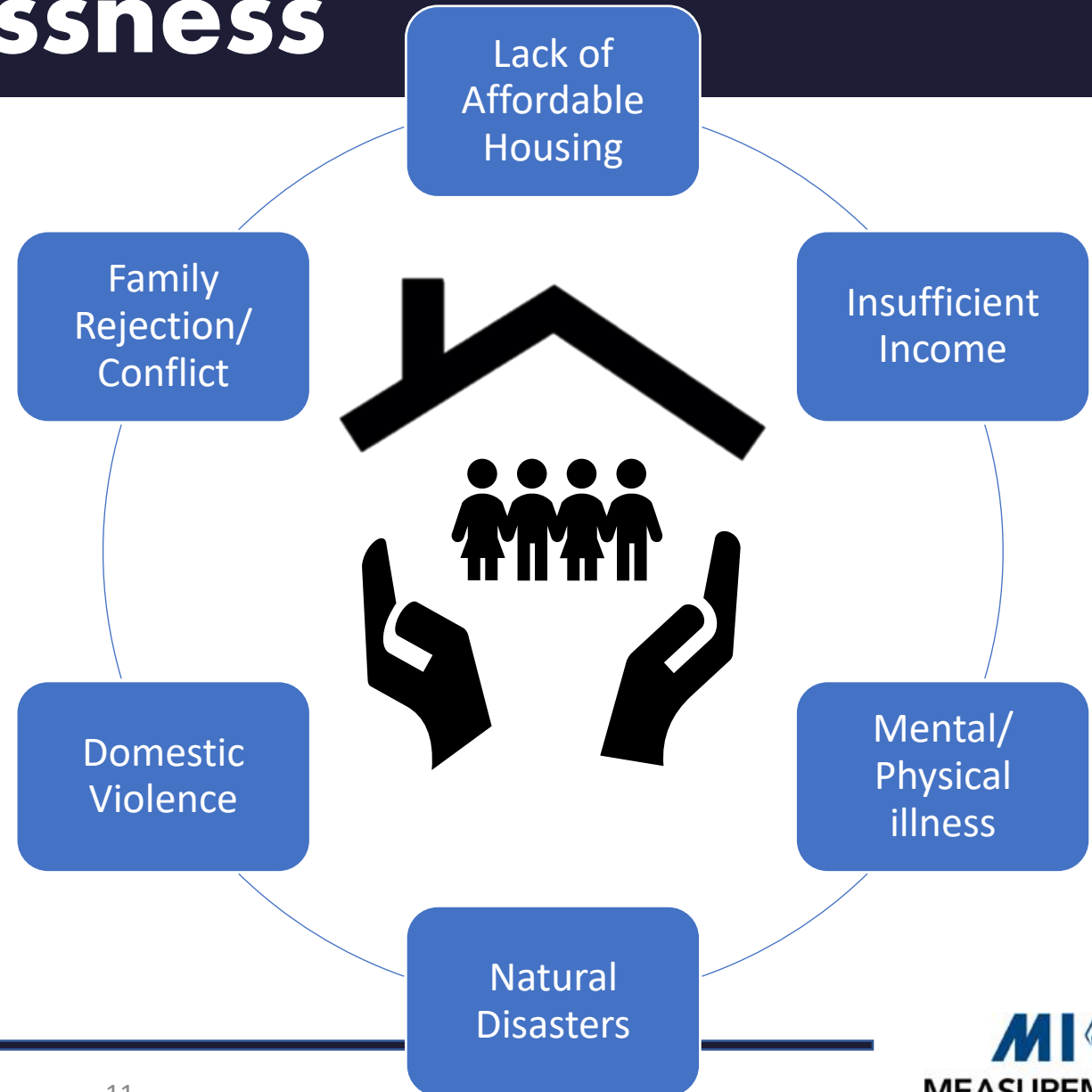


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# Causes of Homelessness

What are other potential causes of homelessness?



# Educational Barriers



Lack of **basic** resources like a safe and stable place to live, food, and clothing



Difficulty **accessing** school, immunization records, other documentation necessary for school enrollment, and school supplies



**Challenges** finding transportation to enroll with the school registration office, or to attend school daily



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# Eliminating Barriers to School Success



McKinney-Vento  
Homeless Assistance  
Act



New York State  
Education Law 3209



NYS Commissioner's  
Regulations Section  
100.2(x)



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# McKinney-Vento Act

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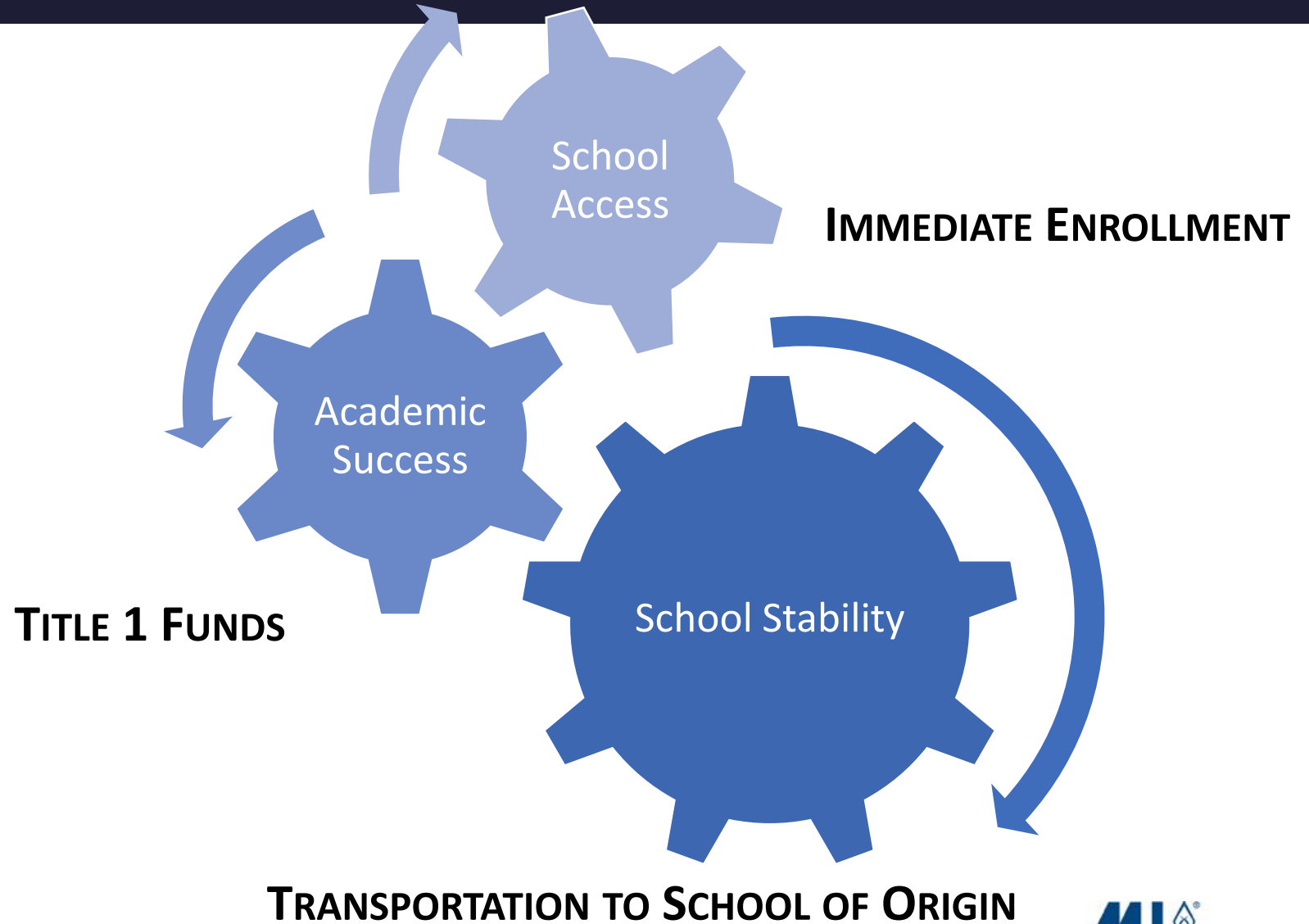
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# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Federal law established in 1987
- Reauthorized in 2015 as part of ESSA



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# LEAs Role to Remove Barriers For...



## Enrolling

Enroll in school immediately even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.



## Attending

Continue attending the school of origin and receive transportation to and from school.



## Succeeding

Equal access to the same free, appropriate public education and related services needed to meet State academic standards.



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# Under the McKinney-Vento Act, Charter Schools...

- **Review and revise policies** that act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless children and youth, including barriers caused by absences. 42 USC §11432(g)(1)(I)
- **Remove barriers** to enrollment in school, which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities. 42 USC §11432(g)(1)(I)
- Ensure that homeless children and youth are **identified** by school personnel and receive the educational services for which they are eligible. 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A)



# Under the McKinney-Vento Act, Charter Schools...

- **Provide transportation** to students in temporary housing to help students stay in school. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii) & NYS Education Law 3209(4)
- **Enroll** students in temporary housing immediately, even if the student is unable to provide documents typically required for enrollment, such as school records and medical records including immunization records, proof of residency, guardianship papers, birth certificate, or other documents normally needed. Also enroll students in temporary housing even if they missed application or enrollment deadlines during a period of homelessness.
- Designate an appropriate staff person, who also may be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a **local homeless education liaison**. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)

# McKinney-Vento Act Requirement

The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local homeless education liaison.

The local liaison assists families and district staff with the identification and enrollment of students experiencing temporary housing.



42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)( J)(ii)

# McKinney-Vento Liaison Responsibilities

1. Identification
2. Enrollment
3. Referrals for Early Childhood
4. Referrals for Health, Housing, and Other Needed Services
5. Parent Involvement
6. Posting Public Notices
7. Dispute Resolution
8. Transportation
9. Training for Colleagues
10. Meeting Needs of Unaccompanied Youth

## M-V Liaison Responsibilities

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A); US Department of Education Non Regulatory Guidance, Section F, Questions L-3& Q2; 8NYCRR § 100.2 (x)(7)(iii)(a)

# McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homelessness

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## Identification and Eligibility



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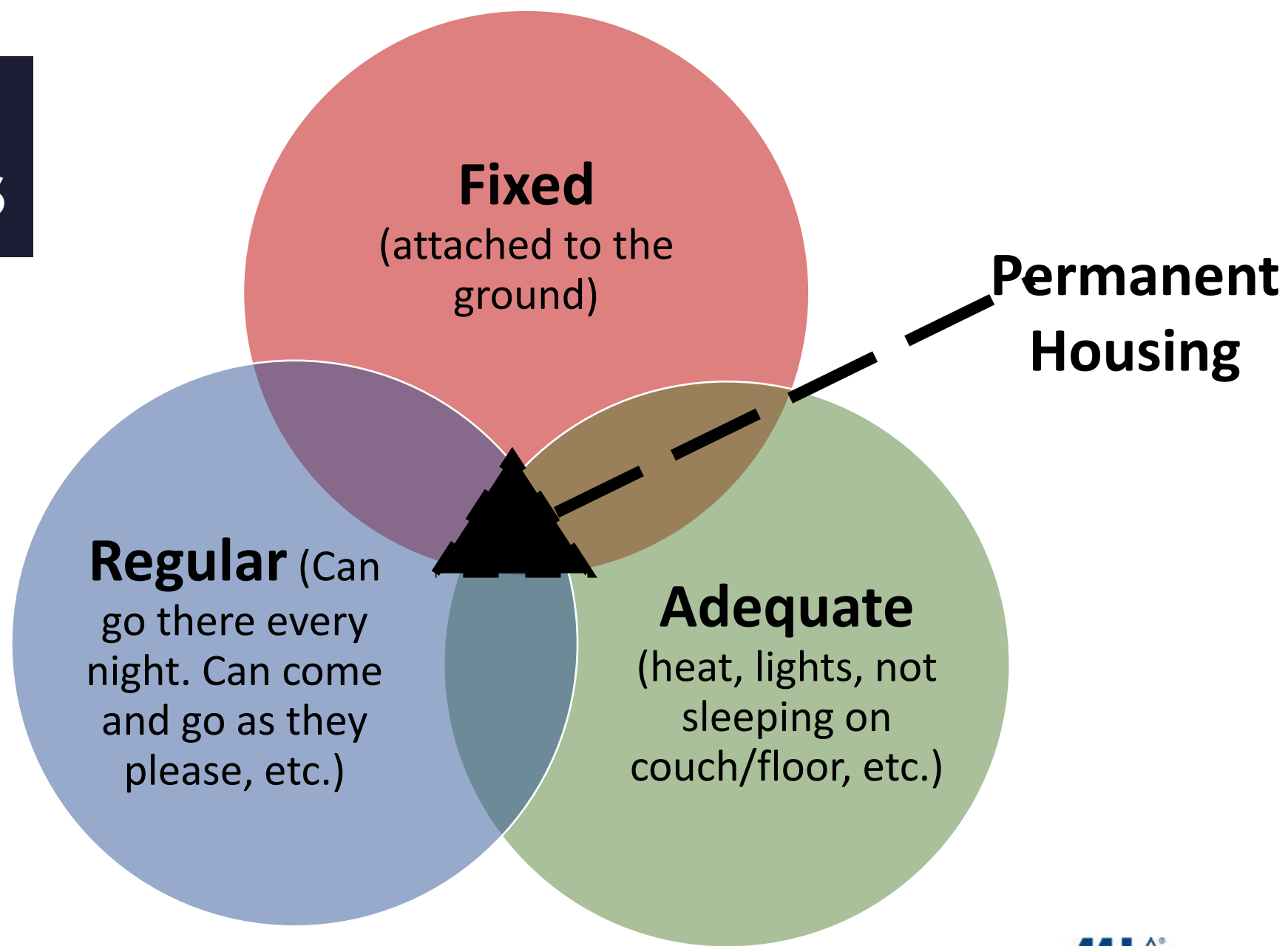
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# Definition of Homelessness

The term “homeless child or youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate primary nighttime residence.



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# Homelessness: Living Conditions

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in circumstances described above
- Unaccompanied youth living in circumstances described above

*Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i); U.S. DOE's Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question A-2*



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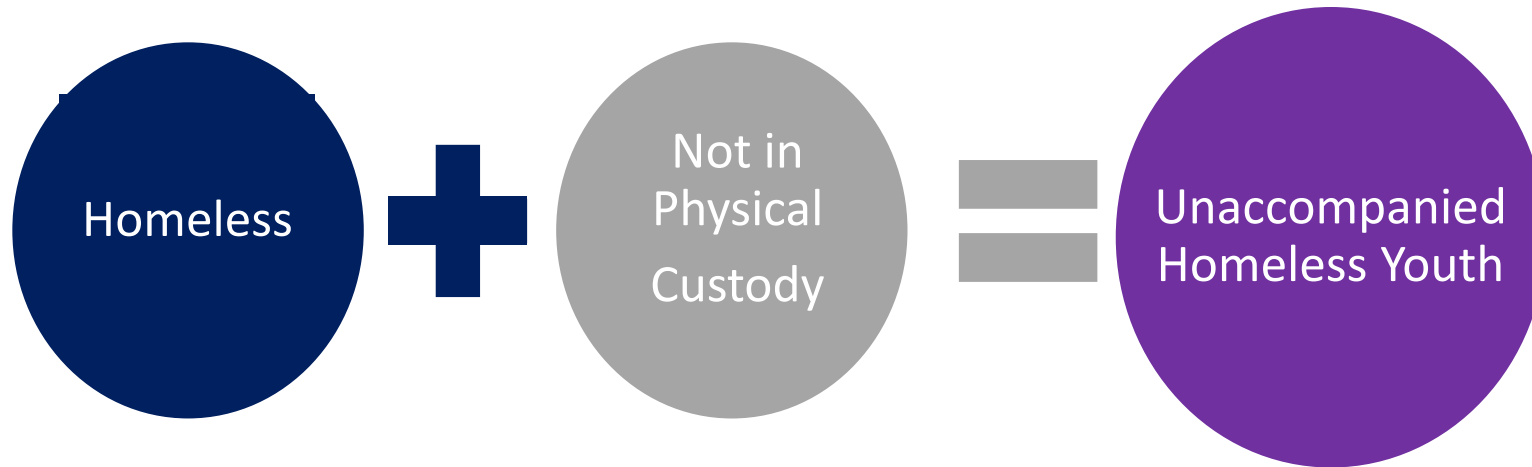


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# Definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An unaccompanied youth is a child or youth that is not in the physical custody of/not living with a parent or guardian.

To be eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the youth must also meet the definition of homelessness.



42 U.S.C. § 11434a[6]; Education Law § 3209[1][a][1][v]; and 8 NYCRR § 100.2[x][1][iii][6]



# Scenario #1

There is a family with two children living in a two-bedroom apartment in Manhattan. There is a fire in their apartment, so they move into her parents' four-bedroom home in Brooklyn.

This family's housing is...

- A. Fixed, regular, and adequate
- B. Fixed, regular, but not adequate
- C. Fixed, but not regular or adequate
- D. Fixed, not regular but adequate



# Scenario #2



Mom is living with two children in a one-bedroom apartment. The landlord evicts the family, and they have nowhere to go so they are staying in mom's car. This family's housing is...

- A. Fixed, regular, and adequate
- B. Fixed, regular, but not adequate
- C. Fixed, but not regular or adequate
- D. Not fixed, regular and adequate



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# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Homelessness = lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence



If any one of these criteria is missing, the student is eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits.



A student may be considered homeless for an unspecified length of time if housing is not fixed, regular and adequate.



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# Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the local liaison is charged with ensuring that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.

42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(i)

[NYS TEACHS Outreach Materials](#)



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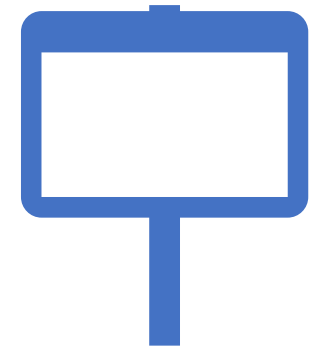
# Identification Strategies



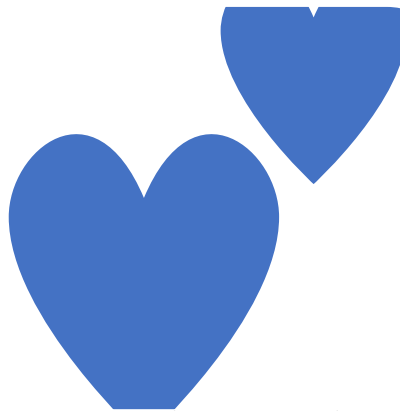
Avoid using the word “homeless”



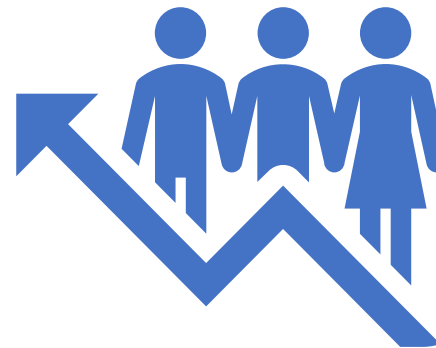
Train school community



Post outreach materials



Coordinate with community agencies



Coordinate with youth services



Use data to inform decisions



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# McKinney-Vento Act

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## School Selection and Enrollment



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# School Selection

Local education agencies (LEAs or school districts) must “presume that keeping homeless children and youth in the school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, to the extent feasible, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth) or the youth.”

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)(i), 2001



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# School Selection Options



The school student attended when last permanently housed.



The school last attended, even if the student was temporarily housed during that time.



The local school where the student is currently temporarily housed.

N.Y. Education Law § 3209(1)(i)



# Criteria for Charter School Admissions

## McKinney-Vento students:

- Have the same admission criteria as permanently housed students for admission into a charter school.
- Are entitled to immediate enrollment in a charter school, if admissions requirements are met and seats are available.
- Can transfer mid-year to a charter school, if permanently housed students may do so.



# Housing Questionnaire

- Screening tool is required for all students
- Required at the time of enrollment and change of address

**NOTE TO SCHOOLS/LEAS:** Please assist students and families filling out this form. The form should be included at the top page of registration materials that the district shares with families. Do not simply include this form in the registration packet, because if the student qualifies as residing in temporary housing, the student is not required to submit proof of residency and other required documents that may be part of the registration packet.

## HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of LEA: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Gender:  Male  
 Female  
 Non-binary

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

Grade: \_\_\_\_  
(preschool-12)

ID#: \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The answer you give below will help the district determine what services you or your child may be able to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to immediate enrollment in school even if they don't have the documents normally needed, such as proof of residency, school records, immunization records, or birth certificate. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act may also be entitled to free transportation and other services.

Where is the student currently living? (Please check one box.)

- In a shelter
- With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up")
- In a hotel/motel
- In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite
- Other temporary living situation (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- In permanent housing

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of Parent, Guardian, or

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent, Guardian, or



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# Who Fills Out The Housing Questionnaire

A Housing Questionnaire should be filled out:

1. **FOR** all students enrolling in school and for all students who have a change of address in grades preschool-12 .
2. **BY** the student's parent, person in parental relation or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, by the student directly.

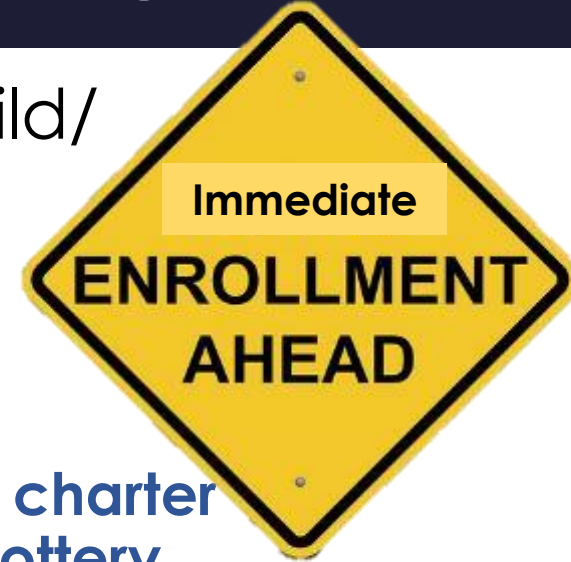


# Liaison Facilitates Immediate Enrollment

- Selected school must immediately enroll, even if the child/youth:
  - Does not have records normally needed for enrollment.
  - Has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

**Lotteries: If a student in temporary housing seeks enrollment in a charter school and the lottery application deadline has passed but the lottery has not occurred, the student should be entered into the lottery.**

- Enrolling school should contact last school attended for records.
- Liaison must assist child/youth in obtaining any necessary immunizations or other required health records.



*Education Law §3209(2)(f); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(4)(ii); see also 42 USC §11432(g)(3)(C); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions I-5 & I-6.*

# Charter School Lotteries: Geographic Preference

Geographic preference for charter school admissions lotteries is available to students in temporary housing for:

- Any charter school located in the school district where the student was **last permanently housed**. (School District of Origin).
- Any charter school located in the school district **where the student is temporarily residing**. (School District of Current Location).

Please refer to [NYSED Field Memo #03-2010A](#)



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# McKinney-Vento Act: Transportation

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# Transportation for Students in Temporary Housing (STH)



Students experiencing homelessness, including preschoolers, are entitled to transportation to school of origin.



Students who move into permanent housing are entitled to transportation throughout the remainder of the school year and an additional year if it is the child's terminal grade in the school.



Students who enroll locally are entitled to comparable transportation as their permanently housed peers receive, and elimination of barriers to enroll in and attend school.



42 USC § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii), 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II); Education Law § 3209(1), 3209(2)(c), 3209(2)(d), 3209(4)(i); 8 NYCRR §§ 100.2(x)(2), 100.2(x)(6)(iv); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-5.



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# Chancellor's Regulations & Rights of STH

As per **Chancellor's Regulation A-801 & A-780**, students in temporary housing are:

- exempt from grade and distance requirements
- eligible for free transportation through the remainder of school year in which they become permanently housed and an additional year if entering the final grade for their school.
- eligible for transportation (OMNI Card or busing, depending) if they are:
  - preschool through grade 12
  - receiving special education services
  - NOT receiving special education services

These rights pertain to students in ALL schools (district, charter & private)  
More information found on the [Transportation Rights page](#).



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# Chancellor's Regulations & Rights of STH

Grade Level	STH Transportation Eligibility
PreK	Eligible for busing* or OMNI Pass
Grades K-6	Eligible for busing* or OMNI Pass
Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> w/ IEP	Eligible for busing* or OMNI Pass
Grades 7-12 without IEP	Eligible for student OMNI Pass only
Students with an IEP that recommends specialized transportation	Eligible for curb to school busing

\*resides more than 0.5 miles from school

# Transportation to a NYC Charter School

- Students in grades K-6 living in shelters are eligible for school bus service, or a student OMNY card if their parent declines school bus service.
- Students in grades K-6 not living in shelters (for example, who are doubled-up) may be eligible for school bus service or for a student OMNY card.
- Preschool students who are temporarily homeless are eligible for school bus service (if an appropriate route exists) or, if they exceed height requirements in MTA regulations to ride for free, will receive a student OMNY card.



# Transportation to a NYC Charter School

- Parents/guardians of students in temporary housing PreK-grade 12 who do not receive busing or are in the process of being routed can receive a Gold MetroCard from their child's school to accompany their child to and from school. To request an OMNY card, contact your child's school.
- Curb-to-school busing is provided to students who are recommended for curb-to-school busing on their IEP or 504 Plan.



# Busing Exception Request Form

The [Busing exception request](#) online form is available on Support Hub and:

- allows for families and supporting staff access to real time updates on requests submitted.
- is available in multiple languages.

**Other exceptions to transportation eligibility includes:**

- Joint Custody Exceptions
- Foster Care Exceptions
- Victim of a Crime Exception
- Order of Protection Exception
- Hazard Exception
- Medical Transportation Accommodations

For more information see [Exceptions to Transportation Eligibility \(nyc.gov\)](#)



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# Obligations of the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS)

- The LDSS is responsible for transportation if it places a student in emergency housing outside of the school district and the student is eligible for Emergency Assistance for Families (\*EAF) **including children who attend PreK and students who attend school at a BOCES.**
- If LDSS requests that the designated school district of attendance provide or arrange for this transportation, **LDSS must fully and promptly reimburse the school district** for the cost as determined by the school district.
  - District does not receive transportation aid for student. It **bills the LDSS** for entire cost of transportation.

\*The EAF Program is a federal program which provides assistance to families to deal with crisis situations.

Education Law §3209(4)(a), NYS Field Memo #2-2017, item 12



# Dispute Process

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The McKinney-Vento **dispute resolution process** is required to resolve any dispute that arises over eligibility, school selection, enrollment in a school, or transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act before a district interrupts services for the student.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(C) & 11432(g)(3)(E); U.S. DOE Non-Regulatory Guidance, Questions K-1, K-2; N.Y. Education Law § 3209(5); 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 100.2(x)(7)(ii)

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# Dispute Resolution Process

**Immediately enroll** the student in the school requested by the family or youth and provide transportation, if requested

Provide the parent or youth a **written notice** of district's determination

Continue **enrollment** and **transportation** until all appeals are final

Assist the parent or youth with completing all appeal paperwork



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# McKinney-Vento Act

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## Title 1, Set-Aside Funds



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# Title I for Students in Temporary Housing

Title I, Set-Aside funds are used to assist students in temporary housing to meet academic standards.

All students in temporary housing are eligible to receive services provided by Title I funds whether they attend a Title 1 school.

## **General Principles:**

- *Services must be reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational opportunities.*
- *Title I, Part A funds must be used only as a last resort when funds or services are not available from other public or private sources, such as public health clinics, or local discretionary funds.*

[NYSED Allowable and Unallowable Uses for Title 1 Homeless Set-Aside Funding](#)

[NCHE Brief: Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness under Title 1 Part A](#)



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# Title I Services for Students in Temporary Housing

- Academic programs and educational support services
- Basic and emergency supplies
- After school programs
- Counseling services
- Parental involvement
- Intervention programs
- Outreach efforts
- Data collection to assess the needs of students in temporary housing
- Work of a McKinney-Vento liaison



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# Check for Understanding

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# Check for Understanding #1

How long can a student be designated as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

- A.** For one school year
- B.** For as long as stipulated in the charter school policy.
- C.** For as long as the student's housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate.
- D.** For as long as the family chooses to attend the charter school.



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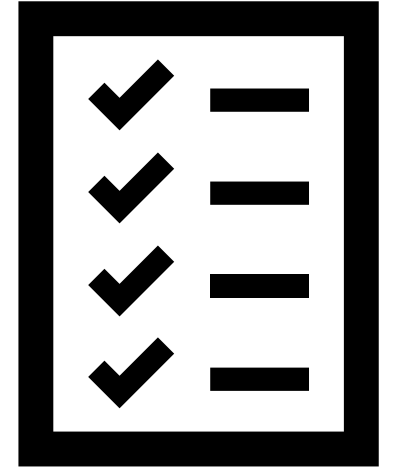


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# Check for Understanding #2

Which of the following documents must a student in temporary housing provide to enroll in a charter school?

- A.** Birth certificate
- B.** Medical/immunization records
- C.** School records from previous school
- D.** None of the above



# Check for Understanding #3

ENROLL



Can a charter school require that a caregiver obtain legal guardianship to enroll an unaccompanied homeless youth?

- A.** Yes, in all instances
- B.** Yes, if student is in elementary school.
- C.** Yes, if enrolling in a new school district.
- D.** No, the school district must enroll the youth in school even if they do not have guardianship papers.



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# Check for Understanding #4

A family with four children are living in Queens when circumstances arose, and they lose their housing. They moved in with a relative on Long Island. Since they are living outside of NYC, are they eligible for transportation to continue to attend the NYC Charter School?

- A.** Yes, they are eligible to continue enrollment with transportation.
- B.** No, only families living in NYC can attend NYC Charter Schools.
- C.** No, they can continue to stay enrolled in school but need to find their own transportation.
- D.** Yes, if they can get to a NYC subway.



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# Check for Understanding #5

A family with two children are living in a shelter and are attending a NYC Charter School in Manhattan. The family finds permanent housing in the Bronx. The family consults with the district liaison on school selection. What should the liaison tell the family?

- A.** Transfer to a charter school in the Bronx
- B.** Maintain enrollment in the current charter school
- C.** Enroll in the local zoned school in the Bronx
- D.** Call the STH Regional Manager



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# Check for Understanding #6

A family with two children had a fire in their apartment so they are living doubled-up with their grandmother. The children are attending 4th and 7<sup>th</sup> grade in a NYC Charter School. They are now living several miles away from the school. What transportation benefit are they entitled to?

- A.** Curb to School pick up from the NYC Office of Pupil Transportation
- B.** Parents are responsible for the transportation
- C.** Busing or ONMI card depending on the grade of the student
- D.** Students are not eligible for transportation when attending a charter school.



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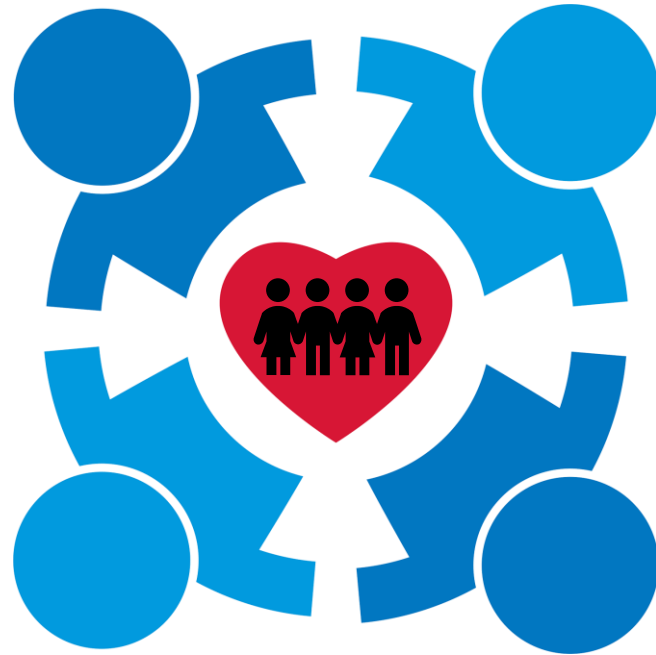
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# Summary

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# Role of the McKinney-Vento Liaison



## IDENTIFICATION

- Identify students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Continue eligibility for McKinney-Vento benefits for an unspecified length of time if housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate.



## ENROLLMENT

- Assist students with immediate enrollment if admission requirements are met and there are seats available in the charter school.



## SUPPORT

- Provide access to resources: health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.
- Ensure transportation to and from school of origin.
- Provide services to students in temporary housing using Title 1, Set-Aside funds.



# Key Ideas

What are some key ideas to remember about the **McKinney-Vento Act** as it relates to charter schools?



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# Resources

More  
Information



[Housing Questionnaire](#)

[Sample LEA Policy on the Education of Students in Temporary Housing](#)

[New York City Charter Schools and Community School District Preference for Homeless Students](#)

[Identifying Children and Youth in Homeless Situations](#)

[Enrolling Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in School](#)

[NYC Chancellor's Regulation A-780](#)



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# NYC Transportation Resources

- NYCPS: [Exceptions to Transportation Eligibility form \(online\)](#)
- NYCPS: [Transportation Rights](#)
- NYCPS: [Transportation Eligibility](#)
- NYCPS: [Transportation Guide for Families](#)
- NYCPS: [Safe Travel Tips](#)
- NYCPS: [NYC Schools Account](#)
- NYCPS: [NYCSA Account Set Up Guide for Parents](#)
- NYCPS: [What's New In Transportation](#)



# Technical and Educational Assistance Center

- **Help Line** (800-388-2014)
- **Website** (<https://nysteachs.org>)
- **Web-Based Trainings**
- **Outreach Materials**
- **Tales from the Field**



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Find us on Facebook: **NYS Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students**

## Next Webinars:

**Supporting NYC Students in Temporary Housing with Transportation**

**Thursday, March 20, 2025**

**9:30am - 11:00am**



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