

The following template is an optional tool for schools and districts to enhance the process of identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness. This template can be tailored to best meet the needs of your school or district.

Instructions for Using this Template:

Liaisons have a responsibility to spread public notice of McKinney-Vento rights in locations frequented by families and youth in a manner and form understandable to them. Utilize this brochure template as an outreach and awareness tool for students and families experiencing homelessness. Customize this template to meet the needs of your school or district by adding relevant contact information, resources, and school or district programs and services.

Once customized, copies of this brochure can be passed along to district administrators, school staff and personnel, and community partners to share with students and families who may be experiencing homelessness. Strategies for disseminating this brochure include:

- Linking a copy on your school or district webpage
- Keeping a stack on the secretary's desk
- Handing out copies at family engagement events
- Including a copy in enrollment or orientation packets

Additional Tools:

For guidance on McKinney-Vento website communication or displaying outreach and awareness materials in your school, district, and community, download the **McKinney-Vento Website Communication Guide** and the **McKinney-Vento Poster Tracker**, both available on the [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's Professional Development web page](#).

Resources

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
Education.ohio.gov/McKinneyVento
HomelessEducation@education.ohio.gov

LAU Resource Center for English Learners
education.ohio.gov/LAU • (614) 466-4109
lau@education.ohio.gov

Runaway and Homeless Youth
acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homelessyouth

Coalition of Homelessness and Housing (COHHIO)
cohhio.org • (614) 280-1984

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
nlchp.org • (202) 638-2535

Local Resources

Add local resources here

State Homeless Liaison

[Name]

Email:

Phone:

District Homeless Liaison

[Name]

Email:

Phone:



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

A Parent's Guide To The Rights Of Children And Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Is your child struggling to succeed in school because of your current living situation?

Am I experiencing homelessness?

- Is your living situation uncertain?
- Are you staying with friends or relatives due to financial hardship or loss of housing?
- Are you staying in a motel, hotel, car, or camping ground?
- Are you staying in a shelter?
- Is your housing lacking water, heat, or electricity?
- Is your housing infested with mold, pests, or other environmental hazards?

If you answered **yes** to any of the above questions, you and your child may be eligible for certain rights and protections under the McKinney-Vento Act.

What are my rights?

If you are experiencing homelessness, you and your child(ren) have certain rights and protections under federal law:

- Your child may remain enrolled in the school they were attending before experiencing homelessness or immediately enroll in a new school in the district in which you are currently staying;
 - You may make this choice of schools with the best interest of your child in mind;
 - Your child must receive transportation to and from their school of choice;

What are my rights? (cont.)

- Your child is granted immediate access to free meals;
- Your child must receive the same public education that other children receive, including preschool and after-school activities; and
- After finding permanent housing, your child may remain in their original school for the remainder of the school year.

To learn more about your rights and determine your eligibility for services, contact your school or district's **homeless education liaison**.

What is a homeless education liaison?

Every community school and public district is required by law to have a homeless education liaison, whose role is to support you and your child by:

- Providing you with information about your rights;
- Helping you make a choice between schools;
- Ensuring your child has transportation to and from school;
- Connecting you to community resources;
- Making sure your child has the needed academic support; and
- Managing disputes about whether you or your child qualify for these services.



How can I support my child?

You can play a key role in supporting your child's educational stability by:

- Keeping in touch with your homeless education liaison;
- Letting the district know if your child's transportation needs change;
- Communicating about potential barriers to your child's attendance and participation;
- Asking about referrals to community resources; and
- Helping your child attend school regularly.

District Homeless Liaison

[Name]

Email:

Phone: