

Educational Support for Students Experiencing Housing Instability

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (ESSA Title IX, Part A)

Students experiencing housing instability have the right to immediate enrollment, educational stability, and support services under federal law. Limestone Charter Association and its schools are committed to ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education, regardless of their living situation.

Purpose and Commitment

Students who do not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may qualify for additional educational supports under federal law.

Our schools are committed to identifying and removing barriers to enrollment, attendance, and full participation in school so that all students experiencing housing instability have access to a free, appropriate public education, regardless of their living situation.

Definition of Homelessness

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a student may be considered eligible for services if their living situation is temporary and due to hardship. Eligible situations may include, but are not limited to:

- Sharing housing with other families due to loss of housing or financial challenges
- Living in hotels or motels
- Living in emergency shelters or transitional housing
- Staying in places not designed for sleeping, including cars, parks, or public spaces
- Living in housing without basic utilities or essential services
- Relocating due to natural disasters or unsafe living conditions

Eligibility determinations are made by the school-based McKinney-Vento Liaison based on individual circumstances. Families are encouraged to contact the school if they are unsure whether their situation qualifies.

Educational Supports and Services

Students identified as eligible under McKinney-Vento may receive supports designed to ensure educational stability, including:

- Immediate enrollment without delay, even if required records or documentation are unavailable
- The option to remain in the school of origin, when determined to be in the student's best interest
- Transportation assistance, as applicable
- Access to free school meals and all school-based academic and support programs
- Participation in extracurricular activities and enrichment programs
- Referrals to appropriate community and social service agencies

Rights of Parents, Guardians, and Unaccompanied Youth

Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth have the right to:

- Receive a clear and timely explanation of eligibility and placement decisions
- Appeal decisions related to enrollment, school selection, or services
- Receive assistance from a trained McKinney-Vento Liaison
- Have the student immediately enrolled and attending school while any dispute is resolved

Charter Authorizer Responsibilities

Each school within Limestone Charter Association designates a trained McKinney-Vento Liaison to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements.

School-based McKinney-Vento Liaisons are responsible for:

- Identifying students who may qualify for McKinney-Vento services
- Ensuring immediate enrollment and removal of enrollment barriers
- Coordinating transportation and educational services
- Connecting families with school-based and community supports
- Assisting families and unaccompanied youth through the dispute resolution process

Families seeking assistance should contact their child's school and request to speak with the McKinney-Vento Liaison.

Enrollment and Next Steps

Families experiencing a temporary housing situation are encouraged to:

1. Inform the school during enrollment or at any time during the school year
2. Complete the school's housing or residency questionnaire
3. Speak directly with the McKinney-Vento Liaison

Students must be enrolled and allowed to attend school immediately and may not be excluded from attendance while documentation is pending.

Additional Educational Supports

When appropriate, additional services may include:

- Access to early childhood education programs
- Support services related to high school graduation and postsecondary readiness
- Coordination of services for students with disabilities, including IDEA-related supports

Resources for Families and Schools

Policies & Program Documents

To support transparency and compliance with federal requirements, the following documents are available:

[LCA McKinney-Vento Policy](#)

[McKinney-Vento Assurance \(2025–2026\)](#)

[LCA MV Affidavit](#)

[Determining Eligibility](#)

[Enrollment Survey Guidelines](#)

[Educational Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Program Oversight & Compliance

Each school annually completes a McKinney-Vento Assurance Form verifying that it:

- Has procedures for identifying eligible students
- Ensures immediate enrollment
- Provides transportation and comparable services
- Maintains confidentiality of records
- Trains staff on McKinney-Vento requirements

Limestone Charter Association monitors compliance to ensure all schools meet federal requirements.

For additional support, questions, or concerns regarding McKinney-Vento services, you may also contact:

McKinney-Vento Program Oversight

Tabitha Taneyhill

Deputy Superintendent of Student Services and Academics

ttaneyhill@limestonecharters.org

South Carolina Resources

South Carolina Department of Education – McKinney-Vento Program

<https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/every-student-succeeds-act-essa-title-ix-part-a-mckinney-vento-homeless-assistance-act/>

State McKinney-Vento Liaison Directory

<https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/essa-title-ix-part-a-mckinney-vento-homeless-assistance-act/mckinney-vento-contact-list/>

National Resources

National Center for Homeless Education

<https://nche.ed.gov/>

SchoolHouse Connection

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/>

Guidance & Legal References

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Federal Joint Guidance on Homeless and Foster Care Students
- McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance

Federal Guidance (U.S. Department of Education)

<https://www.ed.gov/media/document/non-regulatory-guidance-ensuring-educational-stability-and-success-students-foster-care-november-15-2024>

Joint Federal Guidance Highlights

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63dcf65b8d0c56709027332e/t/6753a1ee05ec3337765e5f97/1733534190577/Joint-Federal-Guidance-Highlights.pdf>

Additional Tools for Schools & Families

- Counselor Quick Guide
- McKinney-Vento Flyers and Family Materials

Counselor Guide

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/imported-files/Quick-Guide-for-Counselors-Final-1.pdf>

Family Flyers and Resources

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bHkqM2IRidx9F5e-LNNOyzPfkLf2SuvC?usp=sharing>

Need Help Navigating Services?

Families are encouraged to contact their child's school-based McKinney-Vento Liaison for assistance accessing services and supports.

Confidentiality and Privacy

Information regarding a student's living situation is handled with care and confidentiality. Schools follow all applicable federal and state privacy laws to protect students and families and to ensure services are delivered respectfully and without stigma.