San Juan Unified School District

McKinney Vento Education Program for Families Living in Transition

**Program Goals:**
- Immediate Enrollment
- Student Advocacy
- School Stability
- High School Graduation
- Resource Referral

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**WHO IS A STUDENT LIVING IN TRANSITION?**

- A school-age child who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- An unaccompanied youth
- A school-age child who has a primary nighttime residence that is any of the following:
  - A motel or hotel
  - Trailer park, campground
  - Makeshift arrangements in someone's home
  - A shelter or foster placement
  - Cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus stations or similar settings
  - A place not designed for human accommodations

Adapted from the McKinney-Vento Act
How Homelessness Happens To Families

- Lack of affordable housing
- Eviction
- Fleeing domestic violence
- Experiencing a natural disaster
- Substance abuse
- Divorce
- Death of parent
- Physical or mental illness
- Unemployment, underemployment, seasonal work

According to the McKinney-Vento Act

“The purpose of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth program is to ensure that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including preschool education, provided to other children and youth.”

From the McKinney-Vento Act

Unaccompanied Youth

Unaccompanied youth who qualify as homeless include youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets or in other inadequate housing, children denied housing by their families, and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available. The program liaison will assist in placement or enrollment decisions, will consider the youth’s views, and provide notice of the right to appeal.

Rights and Responsibilities

Children’s Rights

Children experiencing homelessness have these rights:

- A free, appropriate public education.
- To enroll in the school of origin before becoming homeless, or where last enrolled.
- To enroll in the school in their best interest.
- To enroll without complete or verified documents.
- The basic school program offered to all students.
- Comparable academic, social, psychological, transportation, and other supports that other students receive, even if the school is not a Title 1 funded school.
- To participate in school activities.

School’s Responsibilities

Schools serving families experiencing homelessness have these responsibilities:

- To remove all barriers to enrollment attendance, and school success.
- To inform families of their rights and to uphold them.
- To centralize and coordinate the enrollment and transfer process.
- To reach out to families with information, advocacy, and support.
- To teach to high standards for all students.
- To provide for the immediate basic needs of children.

Parent’s Responsibilities

Parents experiencing homelessness have these responsibilities:

- To enroll their children in school.
- To ensure that their children attend school regularly.
- To properly immunize their children.
- To keep copies of documents important to school enrollment.
- To learn about their children’s rights.
- To learn about their rights.
- To participate in school activities.

Community Resources

- A Community for Peace - (916) 728-7210
- CA Youth Crisis Line - 1-800-843-5200
- Call 2-1-1 Sacramento - Dial 211 or (916) 498-1000
- Francis House - (916) 443-2646
- Legal Services of Northern CA - (916) 551-2150
- Next Move - formerly known as Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center - (916) 455-2160
- Sacramento Self-Help Housing - (916) 341-0593
- St. John’s Shelter Program for Women and Children - (916) 453-1482
- Terra Nova Counseling - (916) 239-6387
- Travelers Aid - Emergency Assistance Agency (916) 399-9646
- Volunteers of America - (916) 442-3691
- WEALE (Women Escaping a Violent Environment) (916) 920-2952
- White House Counseling Center - (916) 971-7640
- WIND Youth Services - (916) 561-4900