

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

### **Defining Homeless**

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc.)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

The Smethport Area School District is committed to providing each student with an education free of distractions and disruptions. We do realize, however, that life events can occur where the normal pattern of living can be compromised. We offer services and can provide information and referrals for students and families who are experiencing either temporary or long term homelessness.

Homelessness can be described in many different ways and apply to many different situations. If you or someone you know are living in an environment which is not the norm for you and your family, please contact the school as soon as possible so that we may help assist you in providing you with all the services you need to get through this difficult time.

For further information, please contact:

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