



# Transitional Services (Homeless)

## Office of Transitional Services (Homeless)

Homeless Liaison Services are mandated to all students who meet the federal definitions of a homeless student under the McKinney-Vento Act. Services are provided to ensure equal access to educational opportunities for students whose families are homeless or are in transitional living situations.

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

In January of 2002, Congress authorized the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to assist families and youth experiencing homelessness. This Act entitles children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence to a free, appropriate education and requires schools to remove barriers to their enrollment, attendance and success in school. The McKinney-Vento Program meets the needs of homeless students attending Durham Public Schools by addressing academic challenges and family issues affecting their success in school.

Example living situations that may qualify include, but are not limited to:

- Living with a friend, relative or other person/family because of a loss of housing
- Staying in a motel or hotel because of a loss of housing or fleeing domestic violence
- Living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing or domestic violence shelter
- Living in a car, park or public place, abandoned building or bus station
- Living temporarily in substandard housing
- Living in a campground or an inadequate trailer home
- Living in a runaway or homeless youth shelter
- Youth living on their own, even if their families want them to come home

The McKinney-Vento Program also meets the needs of "a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian" (42 USC §11434a(6), 2001). Youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and lacking a fixed, regular and adequate residence are referred to as unaccompanied homeless youth. Youth who run away are also eligible for services even if the parent/guardian/caregiver wishes the student to return home. Some reasons a youth may be on his/her own include, but is not limited to, family dysfunction, parental neglect and abuse (emotional, physical, sexual, or substance), incarceration, illness and deportation. Runaway youth and unaccompanied homeless youth are eligible to be enrolled immediately without a legal guardian. Under the McKinney-Vento Program, there is no age limit for an unaccompanied homeless or runaway youth as long

as the student is eligible for K-12 public education in NC. Schools must immediately alert the school's McKinney-Vento Liaison if presented with a possible runaway or unaccompanied homeless youth.

Requesting Services: If you feel that you or your family may qualify for McKinney-Vento Services, please contact Beatriz Gaxiola-Brown at (919) 956-5599 or by email to (bbrown@healthystartacademy.org).

State Coordinator: Lisa Phillips/ 336-315-7491

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