



national center for homeless education professional learning community

# Unaccompanied Youth



## HOMELESS:

SHOULD be enrolled as Unaccompanied Homeless Youth under McKinney-Vento



Is the student residing with someone who is not a parent or court-appointed legal guardian?



SHOULD NOT be enrolled as Unaccompanied Homeless Youth under McKinney-Vento



Family was evicted; cannot find housing all together; parent placed child temporarily with a friend or relative

Student left home due to danger or extreme conflict; student was put out of home by parent for similar reasons

Was the family homeless prior to the parent's incarceration? Is the caregiver arrangement not FRA?

The family lost housing; the parent placed the child temporarily with a friend or relative

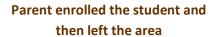






INFORMATION

Parent is incarcerated and a relative or friend agreed to care for the child; in state or out of state





Parent transferred for work; student wants to stay and finish school

Student moved in with a friend, relative, or coach to play sports, be in the band, attend a magnet school, etc.

Student did not change residences, caregiver moved in; parent made FRA arrangements for the student prior to incarceration

Parent's work schedule was problematic, so the child stays with relatives for school



# 1. Is the student residing with someone who is not their parent or court appointed guardian?

If yes, continue to the next question.

#### 2. Does the student meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento?

These are sample questions that can be asked to determine McKinney-Vento eligibility. Reminder: Homelessness is defined as "lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence".

- Why is the student living with someone who is not their parent/guardian?
- Is the entire family homeless and this student placed in this residence as a temporary plan for housing?
- Did the student leave home because of severe family conflict?
- How long can the student continue living where he/she is?
- Does the student have his or her own space/bedroom in the residence?
- Does the student have adequate privacy?
- Can the student come and go as needed?
- Where would the student live if not able to live where they are?

If the student is considered homeless (lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence) and unaccompanied (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian), then they can be registered as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

If the student is not homeless and he/she is residing with a person other than the parent or courtappointed guardian, the student does not qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

### **Rights of Unaccompanied Youth**

- Remain in their school of origin (to the extent feasible)
- Transportation to and from school of origin
- Immediate enrollment in a new school within attendance zone without proof of guardianship or other documentation
- Equal access to programs such as gifted and talented, special education, vocational education, and English as a Second Language services
- Surrogate parent to assist with special education needs
- Appeal school and school district's decisions and immediate enrollment in school pending resolution of disputes