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# **McKinney-Vento 101: School Access and Stability Under the McKinney-Vento Act**



# Lee County School District's Project ACCESS Program



Project ACCESS is a program in the Lee County School District that is funded by the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act. The goal of the program is to ensure a successful educational experience for homeless children and unaccompanied youth in Lee County by collaborating with parents, schools and community. By removing barriers to educational opportunities, children can develop a healthy sense of self with hope for bright tomorrows.



# What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act?

## **Pursuant to F.S. 1001.42:**

- The McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth 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.

## **The School Board Policy 4.28 on Homeless Students states:**

- The School Board of Lee County shall ensure that homeless children and youth are provided with equal access to free, appropriate educational programs, have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State of Florida academic standards, and are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and are protected from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.



# McKinney-Vento Eligibility

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a ***fixed, regular, and adequate*** nighttime residence. The definition includes children and youth who are:

- Fixed- stationary
- Regular- normal and routine
- Adequate- space and safety

The goal of McKinney-Vento is: Identification, Engagement and Wrap-Around services



# McKinney-Vento Eligibility

The definition includes:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as *doubled-up*)
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters such as ACT and Salvation Army
- migratory children
- unaccompanied youth that met the above criteria
- Loss of housing due to natural or man-made disasters



# The McKinney-Vento Act

**According to the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth have the right to:**

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin, if *feasible* and in keeping with the parent's, guardian's, or youth wishes
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students



# How can you help?

In order to ensure that students who are homeless are receiving the help and services they are entitled to, we must identify these students!! Project ACCESS needs everyone's help in regards to identifying families who are in transition and/or homeless.

## Possible Signs of Homelessness:

- Attendance and enrollment at numerous schools
- Frequent absences and tardiness
- Lack of records needed to enroll into school
- Consistent lack of preparation at school
- Lack of basic schools supplies



# Question and Answer Period



# For More Information:

## **District Homeless Education Liaison**

Erin Dalla Costa MA

Email: [Erined@leeschools.net](mailto:Erined@leeschools.net)

Phone: (239) 337-8333

## **Project ACCESS Secretary:**

Nancy MacDougall

Email: [Nancyama@leeschools.net](mailto:Nancyama@leeschools.net)

Phone: (239) 337-8573