

# McKinney-Vento Act Homeless Education Program (NCLB: Title X)

## DEFINITIONS

**Homeless children and youth** are minors who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes children and youth who:

- are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- are abandoned in hospitals; or
- are awaiting foster care placement;
- have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- migrant children and youth (as defined under NCLB Title IC – Migrant Education) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.

### Subgroups:

- **Children and Youth in Homeless Families**
- **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** (runaway, abandoned, and/or unsupervised youth)

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, an individual or family who lacks a **fixed, regular** and **adequate residence** is considered homeless.

- **Fixed** residence: one that is stationary, permanent and not subject to change.
- **Regular** residence: one that is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis.
- **Adequate** residence: one which is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

### Public School Rights:

- Homeless children and youth are entitled to **immediate public school enrollment**. The terms **enroll' and enrollment'** include attending classes and participating fully in school activities.
- Homeless children and youth are entitled to enrollment at their **school of origin**, provided it is in the best interest of the student, requested by parents and feasible. The school of origin is the school last attended by the homeless child or youth at the onset of homelessness.