

Appeal Process

If a parent or unaccompanied youth disagrees with a decision regarding eligibility, the school of enrollment, or services, they have the right to appeal.

Whenever services, in whole or part are denied, the parent or unaccompanied youth shall receive a Denial of Services letter and an Appeal Notice Form.

The first appeal must be filed with the school principal. The principal shall review and respond within five school days of receiving the appeal.

If the parent is dissatisfied with the principal's appeal decision, or if a decision is not provided within five days, an appeal may be filed with the Superintendent. The Superintendent's Designee (the Office of Appeals) shall review the matter and issue a written decision within 10 school days.

During the appeal process, the student shall remain enrolled in the current school.



Important Telephone Numbers

Department of Transportation

301-952-6570

Free and Reduced Meal Program

301-952-6517

Maryland State Department of Education

McKinney-Vento Office

410-767-0945

Shelter Hotline

1-888-731-0999



Prince George's County Public Schools

McKinney-Vento Program Office

Oxon Hill Staff Development Office

7711 Livingston Road, Suite J

Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Phone: 301-925-2482

www1.pgcps.org



The McKinney-Vento Program



Rights, Responsibilities & Resources



The McKinney-Vento Act

If you lost your housing and now live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, on the street, or doubled-up with family or friends, your child may be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney Vento Act.

Children's Rights Under McKinney-Vento

Students have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there;
- Attend either the local school or the school of origin;
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records normally required for enrollment, such as birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization records.

Unaccompanied Youth

A student is considered an unaccompanied homeless youth if he or she is under the age of 18, experiencing homelessness, *and* not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Unaccompanied homeless youth are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act and entitled to the above listed rights.



School of Origin

Moving from one school to another can be very upsetting for children. The law is designed to increase school stability for students by maintaining students in the school of origin. The school of origin is the school the child attended when he or she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. When deciding if it is in the best interest for the child to stay in the school of origin, consider the following questions:

- How old is the child?
- How permanent is the current living situation? Will the child be returning to the boundary of the school of origin or will the child stay near the current address?
- Will the child have difficulty transitioning? An older child who feels very connected to the school of origin and is going to graduate soon may have a harder time changing schools.
- How anxious is the child due to the move? Would changing schools be overwhelming?
- Would changing schools cause the child to fall behind in school and result in poor grades?
- How much time would the child spend commuting to the school of origin?
- Does the student have special needs that impact school placement or bear consideration for transportation?



FAQs

What will I need to enroll my child?

The McKinney-Vento Act requires that children experiencing homelessness be enrolled in school without delay. When registering, parents will be asked for school records, birth certificate, and immunization records. If the parent does not have all of these items, the child will be enrolled and the school will work with you to obtain these documents.

How will my child get to school?

Transportation will be provided for students to the school of origin or the school within the residential boundaries, except for students who live within walking distance.

How do I ensure my child receives services provided by the MVP office?

Parents must complete the MVP Student Services form each year that the child continues to live in temporary housing. Failure to complete this form prior to the start of each school year can result in a delay of services, to include a delay in transportation services.

Who do I call if there is a delay in enrollment?

If you have questions or concerns regarding enrollment, call the McKinney-Vento Office at 301-925-2482.