



**Supporting the Education of Children and Youth
Experiencing Homelessness**

Defining Homelessness Under the McKinney-Vento Act

- **The Legal Definition:** Students who "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence".
- **Who Qualifies?**
 - **Doubled-up:** Sharing housing with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
 - **Motels/Hotels:** Living in motels, hotels, or campgrounds due to lack of alternatives.
 - **Shelters:** Staying in emergency or transitional shelters.
 - **Unsheltered:** Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or bus/train stations

Essential Rights for McKinney-Vento Students



- **Immediate Enrollment:** Students must be enrolled **immediately**, even if they lack documents like birth certificates, transcripts, or proof of residency.
- **School Stability:** Students have the right to stay in their "**School of Origin**" (the school attended before losing housing) or the local school where they are staying, based on the student's best interest.
- **Transportation:** Districts must provide **free transportation** to and from the school of origin if requested.
- **Support Services:** Eligible students automatically qualify for **free school meals** and must have access to all programs available to other students, such as Title I tutoring, sports, and music.

Staff Roles & Support Strategies

- Supporting Success in the Classroom & Beyond
- **The Local Liaison:** Every district has a **Local Homeless Education Liaison**—this is your primary point of contact for enrollment and services.
- **Classroom Strategies:**
 - Provide a **quiet place for homework** and ensure students have necessary **school supplies**.
 - Praise effort and persistence to help build resilience.
- **Social-Emotional Support:** Coordinate with **school counselors** to help students navigate the trauma and changes associated with housing loss.
- **Resource for Staff:** Contact the **NCHE Helpline (305-306-8495)** for technical assistance or visit **NCHE.ed.gov** for training toolkits.