



THE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & CAREERS

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McKinney-Vento Act: Homeless Students

Who is considered homeless? (Definition of Homelessness)

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, “homeless children and youths” are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and include children and youths:

- Who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Who 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
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children who live in one of the circumstances described above

Who is considered an unaccompanied youth? (Definition of Unaccompanied Youth)

Unaccompanied youth are students who:

- Meet the definition of homeless above
- Are not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian
- Are living independently in any of the homeless situations listed above

These students must be provided full and equal access to public education and appropriate services.

Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth, are entitled under the McKinney-Vento Act to:

- Immediate enrollment in school without the normally required documentation
- Attendance in their school of origin if it is determined to be in the student’s best interest
- Transportation to and from the school of origin, at the request of the parent, guardian, or, in the case of unaccompanied youth, the local liaison
- Access to all educational programs and services for which they are eligible, including special education services, preschool, school nutrition programs, English learner services, career and technical education, gifted programs, online learning, and before/after-school programs
- Protection from stigma and segregation
- The right to dispute any eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision

Students in Foster Care

Students in foster care will remain at Prep Charter High School (their school of enrollment at the time of placement) unless a Best Interest Determination (BID) meeting decides otherwise. If the student’s placement changes, a BID meeting must be held to determine whether they should remain or transition to a new school.

Foster parents or foster care workers should not change a student’s enrollment without a BID meeting. Contact the counselor’s office for more information.