

MICHIGAN ONLINE SCHOOL

McKinney-Vento Protected Rights

Students experiencing homelessness have certain rights and are eligible for certain protections that must be safeguarded by the LEA. Michigan Online School protects MKV students' rights. These rights and protections include:

- immediate enrollment and attendance in classes (regardless of missing records or deadlines)
- preference for school of origin during best interest placement decisions
- transportation to school of origin, if requested
- access to services comparable to other students
- removal of barriers to full access and school participation
- written determinations on a student's eligibility under the McKinney-Vento Act
- information and support for dispute resolution
- unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) protections
- support from an identified and trained homeless liaison who serves as an advocate for the student

Unaccompanied homeless youth are ensured the same educational rights that the McKinney-Vento Act provides for other homeless students, which include the right to:

- enroll immediately, even if they do not have paperwork normally required for enrollment or have missed application or enrollment deadlines [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)];
- attend either the local attendance area school or the school of origin, with the placement decision based on the student's best interest, giving priority to the youth's request [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)(ii)];
- remain in the school of origin (including the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools) for the duration of the homelessness and until the end of the school year in which the student becomes permanently housed [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(i), 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(l)(ii)].
- receive transportation to and from the school of origin [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)];
- receive educational services, such as free school meals and Title I services and participate in gifted and talented programs, vocational and technical education, alternative education, programs for English learners, and any other services comparable to what housed students receive [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4)]; and
- not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(i)].

In addition to the provisions that apply to all homeless students, the McKinney-Vento Act includes the following provisions specifically for unaccompanied homeless youth:

- Unaccompanied homeless youth shall be immediately enrolled without proof of guardianship [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(H)(iv)];
- During a dispute over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment, unaccompanied homeless youth shall receive a written statement explaining the school's decision, the youth's right to appeal the decision, and a referral to the local liaison. Students also must be enrolled in school immediately while disputes are resolved [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)];
- Local liaisons must ensure that unaccompanied homeless youth o are immediately enrolled in school; o have opportunities to meet the same state academic standards as other children and youth; and o are informed of their status as independent students for the purpose of applying for financial aid for higher education and provided verification of such status for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(x)].