



KNOW YOUR ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

Students Experiencing Homelessness

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness.

Under McKinney-Vento, students experiencing homelessness have the following enrollment rights:

1. **The right to remain in the school of origin.**

The school of origin is defined as “the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a preschool”. The student has the right to attend the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed.

2. **The right to immediately enroll in the in-boundary school.** A parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth can request to enroll in the public school closest to their temporary residence/placement. The right to immediate enrollment is NOT extended to application schools.

The My School DC Lottery Application. My School DC in partnership with DCPS and the majority of DC public charter schools, makes it easier for families to take advantage of DC's many school options. The My School DC lottery application is a single online application you must use to apply to attend:

- Participating public charter schools (PK3–12)
- DCPS school outside your boundary or feeder pattern for any grade (PK3–12), including DCPS citywide schools
- PK3 or PK4 programs at any DCPS school, including your in-boundary school
- DCPS selective high schools (9–12)

Please visit myschooldc.org or call 202-888-6336 for more information or to apply.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



Homeless Children and Youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and are subsequently:

- **Sheltered**—living in emergency or transitional shelters,
- **Hotel/Motel**—living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- **Doubled Up**—living in a shared housing situation due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- **Unsheltered**—living in any other non-permanent housing not covered above (i.e. living on the streets, in abandon buildings, cars, substandard housing, etc.)



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a School-based Homeless Liaison (SBHL)?

Every school must have a designated liaison for students experiencing homelessness. The SBHL can assist with:

- Immediate enrollment;
- Resolving enrollment disputes;
- Parent involvement opportunities and connection to community resources;
- Connection to homeless students and parents with educational services and other resources (e.g. transportation and uniform assistance); and
- Ensuring children, unaccompanied youth, and families have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, early intervention (IDEA Part C) and other preschool programs.

How can I find out which school is in-boundary to my temporary residence?

All DCPS students eligible for grades K-12 have a guaranteed right to enroll in the in-boundary school. You can find your in-boundary school by typing your current temporary address into the DCPS Enrollment Boundary Information System (EBIS): <http://dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/schools/>

What if I do not have required enrollment documentation?

Schools must enroll children and youth experiencing homelessness immediately, and ensure they receive educational and related services for which they are eligible even if they are unable to produce documents normally required for enrollment (birth certificates, immunization records, etc.)

What documentation can I provide to prove residency?

- A placement letter from Virginia Williams Family Resource Center or the shelter where you are temporarily residing
- A signed letter from the person you are temporarily residing with stating you and your children are temporarily residing with them at their address. Same applies for unaccompanied youth.
- You cannot be denied enrollment if you are unable to prove residency

What should I do if I am denied enrollment at the school of origin or in-boundary school?

If you are denied enrollment at the school of origin or in-boundary school, the school must provide you with OSSE' Dispute Resolution Guidelines and instructions. The school-based homeless liaisons must also provide you with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision. The Dispute Resolution Guidelines can be found here: [OSSE Dispute Resolution Guidelines](#) or on the DCPS Homeless Children Youth Services webpage: <https://dcps.dc.gov/service/homeless-children-and-youth-services-dcps>. For more information please contact the DCPS Homeless Children and Youth Program at DCPS.HCYP@DC.GOV or call 202.576.9502.