



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

The McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

Defining Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, boats, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

The goal of the Orcas Island School District Homeless Program is to keep students in school. We also want to assist families in staying involved in their children's education and reducing risks they may face.

**If your family lives in any of the following situations
Then please contact:**

For enrollment and support, please contact:
Margie Sabine OISD Homeless Liaison @ 360-376-1590

Your school-aged children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Know Your Rights:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled). If that is your preference and is feasible.

If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

Contact Us:

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McKinney-Vento Program Forms and Information:

[Housing Form](#)

[Housing form - Spanish](#)

The State of Washington – (OSPI) Homeless Education Office

<http://www.k12.wa.us/homelessed/assistanceact.aspx>

Additional Resources and Information:

[Free and Reduced Lunch Application](#)

[Weekend Packs for Kids Application](#)