



McKinney-Vento Basics

Which rights keep a student experiencing homelessness in school, and how do they connect to attendance?

THREE MOVES FOR THIS WEEK



Screen every enrollment

Cost: \$0

Use a housing questionnaire at enrollment and re-enrollment.



Flag before the letter

Cost: \$0

Route any student with housing flags to the liaison before attendance notices.



Train front office staff

Cost: \$0

Front desk and attendance clerks learn the signs and the referral path.

RESPECTFUL HOUSING QUESTIONS

1. Where is your family staying right now?
2. Is it a temporary arrangement?
3. Do you have what you need to get to school each day?
4. Our liaison can help with enrollment, rides and supplies.

CLASSIFY BEFORE YOU CONSEQUENCE

Withdrawal

Most housing-related absence. Liaison first, never a truancy letter.

Avoidance

Stigma at a new school. Assign a welcoming adult.

Refusal

Trauma and stress. Connect to counseling.

Truancy

Rarely the right label for a student without stable housing.

AVOID THESE MISSTEPS

- ✗ Requiring records before enrolling a student
- ✗ Sending standard truancy notices to identified families
- ✗ Assuming families will self-identify

HOW YOU WILL KNOW IT WORKS

Leading: Students identified and connected within 5 days

Lagging: Chronic absence for identified students

Evidence: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 1 (Maria, composite case); McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.); National Center for Homeless Education.



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