

Skyview School, Inc
Homeless Program
Parent and Student Handbook



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Program Contacts

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State Coordinator (Arizona Department of Education)

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Rights of Homeless Students

The LEA/Charter District shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and unaccompanied youth, applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless:

The term “homeless children and youth”— means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)].

A student may be considered eligible for services as a “Homeless Child or Youth” under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if he or she is presently living in one of the following situations:

- sharing the housing of other persons 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 alternative adequate accommodations,
- living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals,
- 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, or
- is a migratory child who qualifies as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.

To remove educational barriers for children and youths experiencing homelessness, the McKinney-Vento Act mandates the following: Immediate Enrollment: Documentation and immunization records cannot serve as a barrier to the enrollment in school [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(C)].

School Selection and Maintained Enrollment: McKinney Vento eligible students have a right to select from the options outlined below. Students may remain enrolled in their selected schools for

the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year upon which they are permanently housed or enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is living are eligible to attend. [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(A), 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(B) and 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(I) (i)].

School of Origin	School of Residency
The school the student attended when permanently housed.	The school in the attendance area in which the student currently resides
The school in which the student was last enrolled.	

Transportation Services: McKinney-Vento eligible students attending their School of Origin have a right to transportation to and from the School of Origin [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)].

Participation in Programs: McKinney-Vento eligible students are guaranteed the right to services comparable to services offered to other students in the school [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(4) & (6)(iii)].

Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness: McKinney-Vento eligible students are guaranteed the right to immediate enrollment without proof of guardianship [42 U.S.C. §1432(g)(1)(H)(iv)].

Access to Extracurricular Activities: Removal of barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities for homeless students who meet relevant eligibility criteria [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(F)(iii)].

Dispute Resolution: If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation, or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint with Skyview School’s Homeless Liaison [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(E)].

Appointment of a Local Homeless Liaison: The McKinney-Vento Act mandates the appointment of a local Homeless Liaison in every school district or local education agency (LEA) to ensure that homeless children and youth are enrolled in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(ii) and U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A)].

For more information, refer to Arizona Department of Education, Homeless Education, 42 USC CHAPTER 119, SUBCHAPTER VI, Part B: Education for Homeless Children and Youths, and the AZ State ESSA Plan

Program Overview

Skyview School's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Program is a federally funded program for children in the Prescott Unified School District who are "in transition" in their housing situation. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act protects homeless children and youth by providing additional rights and educational support services beyond that offered in the regular classroom setting.

Skyview School students, Grades Kindergarten through 8th grade, may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act if they live in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter
- In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- Doubled up with other people in someone else's home due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Children living with non-custodial relatives or friends
- Families who live in substandard housing without access to running water or adequate heating

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Transportation

Skyview School provides for the transportation rights of homeless students in various ways. Each student's situation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Services

Students are eligible for services from the time they are approved for the homeless program through the remainder of that school year.

Expedited Free School Lunch

Students who are approved for the Homeless Program are automatically eligible for the free lunch program. The Free and Reduced Price Meal Application does not need to be completed. Free meals are usually available within a few days of being approved for the program.

Referrals to Community Resources

The homeless liaison may be able to provide information on community agencies that provide health and human services.

Title I Services

Students approved for the Homeless Program are automatically eligible for Title I services. Services include supplemental education programs, such as elementary remedial summer school and academic support during or after the school day.

Fees for School-Sponsored Activities

All School-sponsored activities, including clubs and field trips, are covered for all qualifying homes or unaccompanied youths.

Summer School

The Homeless Program may pay for a summer school program for which the student otherwise qualifies, including:

- Elementary summer school
- Middle school summer school

Dispute Resolution Process

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment for a student eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act –

The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to Skyview School if enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. Skyview School will provide its share of the transportation to the school selected for the duration of the dispute resolution process.

The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to Skyview School's homeless coordinator, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Skyview School homeless coordinator will work with Skyview's Director to ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school, pending the resolution of the dispute.

The homeless coordinator shall work through the expedited dispute resolution process. For Prescott Unified School District, that process involves:

- The district homeless coordinator will communicate directly with the child, youth, parent, or guardian. The district homeless coordinator is the decision-maker to verify eligibility of homeless status. The decision is based on the information the family provides and following eligibility guidelines as stated in the McKinney-Vento Act.
- The district homeless coordinator will contact youth, parent, or guardian within 48 hours of receipt of the application. Eligibility determination is made within 48 hours.
- PUSD will provide the parent, guardian, or homeless youth with verbal verification of status. If dissatisfied with the school's decision, the parent, guardian, or youth may appeal the decision to the state level. Contact information will be provided by the district homeless coordinator.