

## STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

Who are children and youth experiencing homelessness?

### The term includes:

Children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”);
- 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.

Children and youth who 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;

Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.

For assistance with school meals contact:

School Food Authority Director

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Homelessness Coordinator

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

McKinney-Vento Act  
Students Experiencing Homelessness

New Mexico State Coordinator

Dana Malone

120 South Federal Place, Room 206

Santa Fe, NM 87501

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Phone: (505) 827-1810

[http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/  
student-success-wellness/mckinney-vento/](http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/student-success-wellness/mckinney-vento/)

## MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

## Educational Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness



STUDENT SUCCESS AND WELLNESS BUREAU

[http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/  
student-success-wellness/staff/](http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/student-success-wellness/staff/)



# EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

## Educational Rights of Students/Families

Be immediately enrolled in school even if you do not have the necessary paperwork or missed enrollment deadlines.

Receive a free, appropriate public education.

Attend 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 student's request.

Participate fully in all school activities and receive transportation to and from school, if requested.

Receive educational services including, but not limited to, special education services for English Learners, career and technical education, after school programs and school meal programs at no cost.

Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's needs.

Participation in extra-curricular activities such as clubs and athletics.

## Notice of your rights

If you are an English Learner, use a native language other than English, or need additional support because of a disability, translators, interpreters, or other support services will be made available to you at no cost in the appropriate language.

You can file a complaint involving the eligibility, school selection/enrollment, participation or transportation, with the school or school district following the school or school district's written policy along with the Public Education Department's (PED) procedures-

The school must provide notice of a dispute to the homelessness liaison using the dispute resolution form, and the LEA/State Charter School will have ten calendar days to review and make a final decision.

If a decision is not in your favor, the school homelessness liaison is required to initiate an appeal with the PED's State Homeless Coordinator using the PED's procedures. The parent, guardian or student have the option to also submit an appeal using PED's procedures.

The student experiencing homelessness or the unaccompanied youth has a right to be enrolled immediately in the school in which enrollment is sought until a final decision is made.

The PED's procedures are located at:

<http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/student-success-wellness/mckinney-vento/>

Other Resources that may be able to provide you with assistance  
(Please note: these other resources listed are independent of, and separate from, the New Mexico Public Education Department)

National Center for Homeless Education  
(NCHE)

NCHE helpline 1-800-308-2145 or  
[homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)

More information is available at:  
<https://nche.ed.gov>

Center for Parent Information and Resources  
(CIPR)

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

U.S. Department of Education:  
Especially for Parents

<https://www2.ed.gov/parents/landing.html>

New Mexico Public Education  
Department: Teacher and Family Outreach  
<http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/teacher-family-outreach/>

Other information regarding NM PED Complaint Procedures may be found in Rule 6.10.3 of the New Mexico Administrative Code