



## WHAT IS THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT?

A law that was passed in 1987 and reauthorized in 2002 under the No Child Left Behind Act. The Act ensures that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as provided to any other child or youth. This law aims to assist homeless children in accessing public school education and to ensure their success.

## HOW HOMELESSNESS IS DEFINED UNDER MCKINNEY-VENTO (MV)

- Sharing housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, campgrounds, or similar settings due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or places not designated for accommodation of human beings.
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances.
- Unaccompanied Youth: This includes homeless children NOT in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Please notify your school social worker any time you move. It does NOT necessarily mean the student has to change schools.

McKinney-Vento rights and services are for the 2026-27 school year. Your school social worker will contact you in the Spring of 2026 to determine your eligibility for the 2026-2027 school year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school social worker or the MV liaison. We are here to assist you and your student!

## YOUR RIGHTS

If you or your children are currently living in any of these circumstances, then you have the right to:

- Immediate enrollment in school without proof of residency, school records, or other documents.
- Attend their school of origin or the school where the family currently resides, depending on the child's best interest.
- Receive comparable services, including transportation, educational services, and free breakfast/lunch.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin if it is in the child's best interest. The child's travel time will be one consideration.
- Appeal if the local school district sends the homeless child or youth to a school other than the school requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth.

## IF YOU BECOME HOMELESS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Please ask to speak to your child's school social worker at the school your child is currently enrolled. The school social worker will respect the confidentiality of the student and family. They will assist in keeping the child in school. School social workers can also refer families to other resources.

# ENROLLMENT DISPUTES

If a disagreement occurs over school selection, the following steps will be followed:

The child or youth will immediately be admitted to the school in which the enrollment is sought, pending the resolution of the dispute

The parent or guardian of the child will be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection.

The dispute will be presenting to the MV liaison, who will carry out the dispute resolution

## ASSISTANCE

Please ask your school social worker or the MV liaison if your student needs assistance with:

- Free lunch & breakfast *\*automatically enrolled\**
  - Remaining at their original school
  - Tutoring
  - Credit recovery - to help when a subject has been failed *(high school students only)*
  - Transportation assistance
  - Obtaining birth certificates
  - Updating immunizations, eye/ear/dental/nutrition screenings
  - School-related fees - lockers, senior dues, sports, fine arts, clubs, and other activities
- Parents/guardians are asked to contribute what they can towards these fees. Students will also be expected to participate in any fundraising activities to reduce fees. MV will cover percentage of the total cost\***
- School supplies
  - College financial aid applications/FAFSA, MV verification letters
  - Summer Camp (for summer '26 - notify the MV Liaison if interested by email at [McKinney.Vento@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:McKinney.Vento@henry.k12.ga.us))
  - Other resources - please ask!

**\*These serves are provided as our grant funding allows\***

## HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS MV LIAISONS:

**CAROLYN HEARD:**  
770-957-3945 EXT. 04132

**LACHANDRA STODGHILL**  
770-957-3945 EXT. 04221

**EMAIL:**  
[MCKINNEY.VENTO@HENRY.K12.GA.US](mailto:MCKINNEY.VENTO@HENRY.K12.GA.US)

## ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

**FOODFINDER APP**  
HELPS LOCATE NEARBY  
FOOD PANTRIES  
(GOOGLE PLAY OR APPLE APP STORE)

**HENRY DFCS**  
770-288-8989

**HELPING IN HIS NAME FOOD PANTRY**  
678-565-6135

**HAVEN HOUSE**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER  
770-954-9229  
(24 HOUR CRISIS LINE)

**UNITED WAY/211**  
404-614-1000

**GOODWILL STOCKBRIDGE  
CAREER CENTER**  
JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE  
770-507-6468

**HENRY**  
COUNTY SCHOOLS

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# EDUCATION OF MCKINNEY-VENTO STUDENTS

## 2026-2027

Parent, Guardian, and Unaccompanied Youth Information Brochure





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