

Batesville School District

McKinney-Vento Handbook

Supporting Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness

School Year 2026–2027



Board Approved:

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1. Statement of Philosophy

The Batesville School District (BSD) believes that every child has the ability to learn and succeed. As part of the BSD Community School Model, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program is committed to removing barriers that may interfere with academic achievement, school attendance, and student well-being. Through collaboration with the BSD HUB, community partners, and school staff, BSD ensures that students experiencing homelessness have equitable access to a safe, supportive, and high-quality education.

2. Who Qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services?

A student may qualify if they **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**.

This includes students who are:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Living in motels or hotels
- Staying in shelters or transitional housing
- Living in cars, parks, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, or places not meant for human habitation
- Living in housing with unsafe conditions, such as:
 - no utilities
 - mold
 - infestations
 - overcrowding
 - structural damage
- Unaccompanied youth not living with a parent or guardian
- Migratory students in any of the above situations

*McKinney-Vento status is determined in cooperation with parents/guardians or for unaccompanied youth by the McKinney-Vento liaison. McKinney-Vento status may be documented through a variety of forms:

Residency Form, Referral Form, or direct contact with school staff through email.

3. Immediate Enrollment Rights

The terms 'enroll' and 'enrollment' are defined to mean attending school and participating fully in school activities. Students identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento services will be immediately enrolled in school and participate fully in school activities, even if required documents are missing. Records will be promptly requested from the previous school. Unaccompanied youth may enroll themselves. The McKinney-Vento Liaison or a Community School Site Director may assist with enrollment, obtaining necessary documents, and connecting students/families to supportive services.

Residency

A youth experiencing homelessness is considered a resident if they are physically present within the district with the intent to remain, even temporarily.

The youth shall be considered a resident when living with a parent, or person in place of the parent, not solely for school purposes or for participation in extra-curricular activities.

1. Youth experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth will be enrolled immediately, even if they lack immunizations and/or records ordinarily required for enrollment. Documents and records that cannot be used for enrollment delays include, but are not limited to:

- transcripts/school records
- immunization, health, medical records
- birth certificates
- proof of residency
- proof of guardianship

2. Once the student is enrolled, it is the responsibility of the school to contact the previous school and request records.

3. The McKinney-Vento Liaison or assigned Community Schools Site Director should be contacted as soon as possible to assist the family with supplies and other needs. This can be done through the building contact for McKinney-Vento or by contacting the McKinney-Vento Liaison directly.

*Students experiencing homelessness have the right to remain in their school of origin or to enroll in the local school where they are currently staying, whichever is in their best interest. BSD McKinney-Vento Liaison will support families in making and implementing this decision.

***Unaccompanied youth may enroll themselves.**

4. School Selection Rights

Families have the right to choose between:

School of Origin

The school the student attended when permanently housed or last enrolled

OR

Local Attendance School

The school in the zone where the family is currently staying

The district will support the option that is in the best interest of the student, with priority given to educational stability.

Students may remain in their school of origin:

- during the period of homelessness
- through the end of the academic year if permanent housing is secured mid-year

*In determining the best interests, to the extent feasible, the youth will be kept in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the youth's parent or guardian, for the duration of homelessness. In the case of unaccompanied youth, the program liaison or designee will assist in placement or enrollment decisions, considering the youth's request.

5. Transportation Services

BSD will provide transportation to the school of origin when requested and determined to be in the student's best interest.

Transportation options may include:

- school bus
- district-approved alternate transportation
- family coordination support
- inter-district transportation agreements when needed

The McKinney-Vento Liaison works directly with families to determine the safest and most appropriate transportation plan.

6. Fee Waivers & Meal Support

Eligible students automatically receive **fee waivers**, including but not limited to:

- field trip fees
- course project fees
- art fees
- career and technical course fees
- technology fees

Students are also granted immediate free meal status at the time of identification.

7. Comparable Educational Services

Students experiencing homelessness have access to all services available to other students, including:

- preschool/preschool home-visiting programs
 - special education
 - gifted and talented services
 - at-risk interventions
 - tutoring and academic support
 - Title I services
 - before and after school programs
 - summer enrichment
 - extracurricular activities
-

8. Student & Family Support Services

Additional support may include:

- school supplies
- clothing and hygiene items
- tutoring
- mentoring
- counseling referrals
- healthcare referrals
- transportation assistance
- emergency assistance necessary for school attendance
- family resource connections through community partners

BSD also works collaboratively with community agencies to support long-term family stability and housing goals.

9. Funding & Allowable Supports

Services may be funded through:

- Title I
- Title X McKinney-Vento Grant
- local district funding
- community partnerships

Allowable uses include:

- tutoring
 - school supplies
 - transportation
 - educational fees
 - record retrieval costs
 - emergency needs that enable attendance
 - parent education
 - staff professional development
-

10. Complaint & Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises regarding enrollment or school placement:

Federal regulations require that the Batesville Public Schools adopt procedures for receiving and resolving disputes pertaining to transition of children and youth experiencing homelessness, as identified under the McKinney-Vento Act. If the dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the child/youth must be immediately enrolled in the school in which he/she is seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute [(PL 107-110, Section 722(g)(3)(E)(iv)].

Enrollment is defined as "attending classes and participating fully in school activities." The school must refer the student and parent or guardian to the district's homeless liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. The homeless liaison must ensure that the dispute resolution process is also applicable to unaccompanied youth.

Any individual who believes that the Batesville Public Schools has violated the regulations or law governing the McKinney-Vento Act should submit a detailed statement of facts supporting the allegation to the Batesville Public School District's Superintendent. The Superintendent shall investigate the complaint and provide the individual with the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment within thirty (30) days. This response must include information on their right to appeal the school's decision [PL 107-110, §722(g)(3)(E)(ii)]. The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated, and provided in a language that the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth can understand.

If the dispute remains unresolved at the district level or is appealed, then the district's homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the state homeless coordinator:

Arkansas Department of Education, Public School Program Advisor Four Capitol Mall, Slot #26
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

All complaints must include the following:

- The date;
- The name of the school district, unit, or individual the complaint is against;
- The name, address, and telephone number of the individual filing the complaint;
- A detailed description of the complaint, including specific facts;
- The signature of the person making the complaint.

When a written complaint is filed, the Department of Education will investigate and issue a written response within sixty (60) calendar days from the date the complaint is received. The state coordinator will notify the LEA, school, and parent of the final school selection or enrollment decision.

Reconsideration: If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the individual, the individual may forward a complaint to:

11. Identification & Referral Procedures

Public notices of educational rights are posted in:

- schools
- libraries
- shelters
- community agencies
- public service locations

School staff should refer any student they believe may be experiencing homelessness.

Referrals may be made through:

- school counselor
 - principal
 - community school site director
 - district McKinney-Vento liaison
-

12. Contact Information

McKinney-Vento Liaison:

**Paula Williams
Batesville School District
Phone: 870-793-0627**

Additional Contact Information:

Batesville School District: 870-793-6831

Batesville Preschool: 870-793-0630

Eagle Mountain Elementary: 870-698-9141

Sulphur Rock Elementary: 870-799-3149

West Elementary: 870-793-9878

BJHSC: 870-793-7533

BHSC: 870-793-6846

WRA: 870-698-1145

**BATESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESIDENCY FORM**

Your answers will help determine if the child/youth meets eligibility requirements for services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

List all of your children birth through age 21.

Name of Child/Youth	School/Program	Age	Grade/ Early Childhood Level	Date of Birth

Parent/Guardian

Address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone Number: _____

Please choose which of the following situations the child or youth currently lives in (you can choose more than one):

- House or apartment with parent or guardian
- Motel, car, or Campsite
- Shelter or other temporary housing
- With friends or family members (other than or in addition to parent/guardian)
- Living in inadequate housing (no heat, no water, mold infested, etc.)

If you are living in shared housing, please check all of the following reasons that apply:

- Loss of housing
- Temporarily waiting for house or apartment
- Economic situation
- Living with boyfriend/girlfriend
- Provide care for a family member
- Loss of employment
- Parent/Guardian is deployed
- Other (Please explain) _____

Are you a child or youth living apart from your parents or guardians? Circle: Yes No

Housing and Educational Rights

Students without fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residences have the following rights:

1) Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended or the local school where they are currently staying even if they do not have all of the documents normally required at the time of enrollment without fear of being separated or treated differently due to their housing situations; 2) Transportation to the school of origin for the regular school day; 3) Access to free meals, Title I and other educational programs, and transportation to extracurricular activities to the same extent that it is offered to other students.

Any questions about these rights can be directed to the local McKinney-Vento liaison at 870-793-0627 or the State Coordinator at 501-683-5428.

Arkansas law provides that anyone who knowingly gives a false residential address for purposes of public school enrollment is guilty of a violation and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18202(f)).

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and understand the above rights.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Unattached Youth

Date

Signature of McKinney-Vento Liaison

Date

Services for McKinney-Vento Identified Students

Student: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Student ID#: _____

Please check the services needed or desired:

- Early Head Start or Head Start
- Immunization/medical records
- Transportation to the school or origin
- Tutoring
- Clothing
- After-school programs
- School supplies
- Counseling
- Mentoring
- Medical/dental referral
- Gifted/talented
- Vision referral
- Vocational/technical
- Medicaid/DSHS Services
- Food Stamps
- Community resource
- Preschool enrollment records
- Prior academic records
- Missing enrollment records
- LEP/Bilingual program
- Birth certificate
- Guardianship issues
- 100 Families
- Partners
- Maternal Life 360

Please list any other additional services required:

Procedures for Identifying Homeless Students

- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths.
- If you believe a student may be experiencing homelessness, you may call Paula Williams, McKinney-Vento Liaison, at 870-793-0627, or you may contact a school counselor, principal, or a community school site director.
- The liaison will make the homeless determination and may ask the school counselor to send information home for parents to complete and return to the school.
- The liaison may also contact the child's parents/guardians (or child if over 18) concerning the homeless program.
- When the student returns forms to the counselor, please contact the liaison by phone or e-mail.
- The liaison will visit the school within one week, obtain a copy of the documentation letter, collect other student achievement and demographic data and develop a plan for student services with the counselor or others designated by the school principal.
- The liaison will schedule a meeting with the parent(s) to review the plan and to determine the need for additional family support. If attempts to meet with the parent are not successful, the plan will be mailed to the parent and student services are initiated.
- The liaison will update parents concerning student progress and update the counselor at least once every 9 weeks concerning student progress and any family support being provided. The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

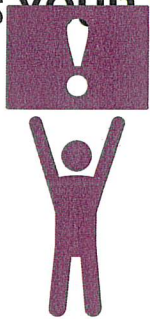
Please see attached McKinney-Vento Residency form and McKinney-Vento Awareness flyer:

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The McKinney-Vento Act



IS YOUR FAMILY TEMPORARILY STAYING IN:

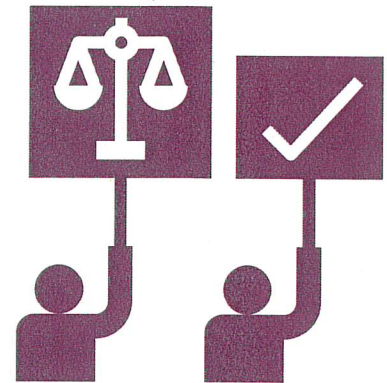


- someone else's house or apartment due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason?
- a hotel or motel?
- a shelter?
- a car, park, campground, abandoned building, or other inadequate space?

Your local school district's homeless liaison may be able to help!

If your family is staying in these living situations, your children have the right to receive extra services and supports in school under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. These include:

- Staying in the same school, even if you move, and receiving free transportation to and from that school if it is in your best educational interest to stay
- Immediate enrollment, even if you don't have the documents that are typically required for enrollment
- Receiving free school meals
- Connecting younger children to early childhood services
- College readiness assistance for high school students
- Referrals to the community for help with other needs



Please reach out to the homeless liaison to see if your child may be eligible.



Paula Williams, McKinney-Vento Liaison, Batesville School District, 870-793-0627

If you are unable to reach the liaison, please contact your McKinney-Vento Homeless Education State Coordinator: David Terrell 501-534-3896

THE TEN LEGAL DUTIES OF THE HOMELESS LIAISON



SchoolHouse
Connection

Homeless liaisons are required (42 U.S.C. §1432(g)(6)(A)) to ensure that:

1

Homeless children and youths are **identified by school personnel** through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.

2

Homeless children and youths are **enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools** of that local educational agency.

3

Homeless families and homeless children and youths have **access to and receive educational services** for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs), early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other preschool programs administered by the local educational agency.

4

Homeless families and homeless children and youths **receive referrals to health care services**, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.

5

The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are **informed of the educational and related opportunities available** to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

6

Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths.

7

Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with this law.

8

The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is **fully informed of all transportation services**, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation.

9

School personnel providing services under this law receive **professional development and other support**.

10

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTHS—

- 1) are immediately enrolled in school;**
- 2) have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards** as the State establishes for other children and youth, including through implementation of partial credit procedures;
- 3) And are informed of their status as independent students and are able to obtain assistance** from the local educational agency liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)