



PHILADELPHIA
1800 JFK Blvd., Suite 1900A
Philadelphia, PA 19103
T 215-238-6970
F 215-772-3125

PITTSBURGH
429 Fourth Ave., Suite 702
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
T 412-258-2120
F 412-535-8225

McKinney-Vento Eligibility Screener

Students who lack a permanent, adequate nighttime residence are McKinney-Vento eligible because they are considered to be experiencing homelessness under the law. They need to be recognized and provided with support from the school.

Use these questions to determine if the student is eligible upon enrollment, after each move, and at the beginning of each school year. If so, refer the student to the McKinney-Vento liaison.

Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility

Does the student have a stable place to stay at night?

▪ Yes____No_____

Is the student’s current housing permanent?

▪ Yes____No_____

If no, refer the student to the McKinney-Vento liaison to be recognized as McKinney-Vento eligible.

If temporary, is the housing:

with family friends or others due to losing housing or for financial reasons,

shelter or emergency housing,

motel,

in a campground or public space

substandard, in a place that isn’t ordinarily used to live in, or has been abandoned

If any of these apply, the student should be referred to the McKinney-Vento liaison.

If the housing is permanent, is it adequate?

- Yes_No_____

For example:

Does the student have basic necessities like a kitchen and bathroom?

- Yes_No_____

Does it have Licensing and Inspections (L&I) violations, heat for the winter, or a problem with pests?

- Yes_No_____

If the answer to any of these questions is “no” the student is McKinney-Vento eligible because they lack adequate housing and should be referred to the McKinney-Vento liaison for services and supports. This law may apply even if a family holds a lease, deed or otherwise has a legal right to remain in a property.

Unaccompanied Youth Are Also McKinney-Vento Eligible

Is the student living away from/outside of the physical custody of her parent or guardian in this temporary living situation?

- Yes_____No_____

If yes, the student is an “unaccompanied homeless youth” under the McKinney-Vento Act and needs to be recognized as both McKinney-Vento eligible and unaccompanied. The liaison should work with the student directly.

Does the student have special education needs or is suspected to have special education needs?

- Yes_____No_____

If yes, the student should be screened to see if the student has an adult who is able or legally authorized to make education decisions on his/her/their behalf. If there is not a person in the student’s life who can serve in the role, the Local Education Agency (LEA) must appoint a permanent Surrogate Parent who has sufficient experience and expertise to make education decisions on the student’s behalf within 30 days. Shelter staff, street outreach workers, and housing program workers can serve in this role temporarily until a permanent Surrogate Parent can be appointed.