

## New Student Registration

Before starting the enrollment process, please know the rights of the children and families you serve.

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youths Program, State educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free public education, including a public preschool education, as is provided to other children and youth. States must review and undertake steps to revise any laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth. School districts and schools may not separate homeless students from the mainstream school environment on the basis of their homelessness. Homeless students must also have access to the education and other services that they need to have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards to which all students are held. (Congressional Statement of Policy in section 721 of the McKinney-Vento Act)

Each SEA must prepare a State plan that describes, among other things, the State's strategies for addressing problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by immunization and medical records requirements; residency requirements; lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation; guardianship issues; and uniform or dress code requirements. (Section 722(g)(1)(H))

Listed below is some helpful information to help you register a child. This process must be completed by the child's parent or legal guardian.

Common Questions	Answers
How do I register a child for School?	Please remember, all school districts are different. Some have online registration while other require individuals to go directly to the Board of Education. Please become familiar with the schools in your programs catchment area and their processes.
What does the school require to register a child residing in shelter?	Every school district, must designate an appropriate staff person as a local homeless education liaison. School liaisons must assist homeless children and youth who do not have immunizations or immunization or medical records to obtain necessary immunizations or immunization or medical records.

### Overcoming Transportation Barriers:

To counteract the educational disruption caused by mobility, the McKinney-Vento Act provides students experiencing homelessness with the right to continue attending the school of origin<sup>1</sup> or enroll in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, according to the student's best interest. When determining a student's best interest, the U.S. Department of Education suggests considering the following feasibility factors in its 2004 Guidance (U.S. Department of Education [ED], 2004, G-4):

- The age of the child or youth;
- The distance of a commute and the impact it may have on the student's education;
- Personal safety issues;
- A student's need for special instruction (e.g., special education and related services);
- The length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location; and
- The time remaining in the school year.

If you are having any issues with providing transportation for your client, please contact Louis Tallarita at the State Dept. of Education – [louis.tallarita@ct.gov](mailto:louis.tallarita@ct.gov); 860.807.2058

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Education. (2001). Part-C Homeless Education. Retrieved from U.S. Department of Education: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg116.html>