

## What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act aims to ensure that each homeless child or youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education. Fairhaven Public Schools will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance.

## Contact the Family Center

For more information and helpful resources.

 **Morgan Matthews -Family Coordinator**

 **774-929-6032**

 **familycenter@fairhavenps.net**

 **30 School St, Fairhaven, MA 02719**

 **www.fairhavenps.org**

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Fairhaven Public Schools



## Definition of Homeless Children/Youth

The term, Homeless Child(ren)/youth refers to individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate night residences.



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## McKinney-Vento Definitions

### Doubled-up ( Staying with others)

Staying with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, domestic violence, or a similar reason.

### Shelters/Transitional Housing

Domestic Violence shelters, homeless shelters, trailers provided by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), housing paid for by programs such as transitional housing, etc.

### Hotels/Motels

Staying in Motels/hotels due to lack of adequate alternatives regardless of who pays for the room.

### Unsheltered

Staying in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

### Unaccompanied Youth

Youth not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

### Migratory Children

Children and youth who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances as defined in Section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

## Educational Rights for McKinney-Vento Students

### School Selection

The student has the right to remain in the school of origin:

- The last school attended
- The school where the student went homeless
- Transportation through the end of the year in which the student becomes housed.

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**The student also has the right to attend the school where they temporarily reside. Students must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not have the required documents.**

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### The Student has Equal Access to

- School Courses
- Activities & Events including:
  - Summer Programming
  - Extracurricular Activities
- EL Services
- Special Education
- Gifted & Talented Alternative Education
- Vocational Schools
- School Choice

### The Student's Living Arrangement

The living arrangement is protected and cannot be shared without parental consent. This prohibits talking to a landlord or neighbors without a parent's permission.

## Helpful Resources

MA Department of Transitional Assistance  
(DTA)  
508-961-2000

New Bedford's Homeless Services Providers'  
Network (NBHSPN)  
[www.nbhspn.com](http://www.nbhspn.com)

Department of Housing and Community  
Development (Family Shelters)  
866-584-0653

The Women's Center  
( Domestic Violence )  
[www.thewomenscenter.com](http://www.thewomenscenter.com)  
508-996-3343

Catholic Social Services  
508-997-7337

Please visit the resource guide on the family center website for other helpful resources.

