



Hope & Help for Homeless Children & Youth

McKinney Vento Policy For Pelham City Schools

Pelham City Schools
3113 Cummings Street
Pelham, Alabama 35124

McKinney- Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento act is a federal law, requiring local education agencies, to establish and carry out policies which ensure that homeless children have access to a free, appropriate public education, on the same basis as children with established residences. Pelham City Schools will ensure that “homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities....” 42 USC §11432(g)(1) (F)(iii). Extracurricular activities is not defined, nor financial obligation; however Pelham City Schools will take the proactive stance to assist the student in finding a variety of options available for the student, such as PTO, booster club, local civic groups, faith community or other agencies. Laws, regulations, practices or policies should not act as barriers to the enrollment, attendance or school success of homeless students.

The McKinney-Vento Act requires all LEAs to eliminate barriers to homeless students’ identification, enrollment, and retention in school, specifically including barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, 42 USC §11434a(1). Enrollment means “attending classes and participating fully in school activities.” Retention is not defined in the law, but a standard definition would include keeping the student enrolled until high school graduation. If a fee is a barrier to enrollment or retention in school, the LEA must eliminate the barrier. Pelham City Schools will ensure that costs do not prevent students from participating fully in school activities.

Your child has the right to participate in all programs at the school. If you need financial assistance, contact the counselor at your school.

Definition of Homeless / Highly Mobile Individuals

The McKinney –Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines a “homeless person” as one who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence or one who has a primary nighttime residence that is defined as follows:

- A shelter/transitional housing/ welfare motel
- The streets/ car/ abandoned building/ campground / etc.
- An institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized.
- A residence with substandard living conditions (not fit for human habitation—no electricity, no heat, no running water, no windows/doors, holes in roof or floor, no way to cook or store food

- Two or more families living together in crowded or undesirable living conditions because they have no place of their own to live where they can safely and healthfully meet their basic needs of privacy with dignity.

Characteristics of Homeless Children

School personnel can identify a probable homeless situation by:

- Appearance: inappropriate clothing, inadequate clothing, poor hygiene, signs of malnutrition
- Frequent absenteeism
- Frequent change of address
- A noticeable change in behavior patterns such as attention seeking behavior, acting out
- An absence of basic materials and supplies
- Withdrawal from peer interaction

The LEA will comply with Federal Civil Rights regulations and the American with Disabilities Act which prohibits discrimination based on race, disability, sex, and age.

For additional information contact: Sevim Whitaker at 205-624-3809, Federal Programs Coordinator, Pelham City Schools, or Floyd Collins, Operations Director, regarding placement, at 205-624-3700.

If your child is considered eligible for the homeless program, he/she has the right to:

- Access to the same public education as other children
- Participate in all programs and activities with students that are not homeless.
- Enroll immediately in school. The school will work with parents to obtain necessary records.

If your child is considered eligible for the homeless program, he/she has the right to:

- Access to the same public education as other children
- Continue in the school they attended before becoming homeless, if feasible.
- Participate in all programs and activities with students that are not homeless.
- Enroll immediately in school. The school will work with parents to obtain necessary records.

Services are provided to students that qualify for the homeless program. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Tutoring through programs provided by the school's PST (Problem Solving Team)
- School supplies
- Payment of class fees/dues
- Payment of field trips
- Personal hygiene items
- Free school lunch
- Counseling for issues related to domestic violence

Parent Dispute Resolution

Enrollment shall not be denied pending resolution of a dispute. Any dispute in regard to providing public education to a child who may be eligible or designated as homeless shall follow Board Administrative Regulations:

If a parent is not in agreement with the homeless enrollment or services provided at the school, parents have the right to file a dispute with the LEA. See Appendix D. If the dispute is in regard to enrollment, please complete the form and send it to Floyd Collins, fcollins@pelhamcityschools.org, or if the dispute is regarding services provided under this policy, send the form to Sevim Whitaker, swhitaker@pelhamcityschools.org

In the event the dispute cannot be resolved locally, the parent or guardian may request a review of the State Homeless Liaison, LaDonna Rudolph, lrudolph@alsde.edu, who will address the issues in the dispute within 10 days from the receipt of a written request for resolution.

A. General Requirements Relating to the Education of Homeless Children with Disabilities

Authority: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq. and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, 20 U.S.C. 1401, 1411-1419 and 34 CFR Part 300, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794 and 34 CFR Part 104 and Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq. and 28 CFR Part 35.

Question A-1: How does the McKinney-Vento Act help to remove educational barriers for homeless children?

Answer: The McKinney-Vento Act is the primary Federal law addressing the educational needs of homeless children and youth. Its major provisions include the following:

- **Definition of Homelessness.** The McKinney-Vento Act covers all children and youth who meet its definition of homelessness. This means those children who “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” 42 U.S.C. 11434a(2). The examples listed in the law include children and youth who:
 - share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 - live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - live in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - are abandoned in hospitals;

- are awaiting foster care placement (*Awaiting Foster Care* will be removed from the McKinney–Vento Definition on December 10, 2016).
 - have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
 - are migratory children who otherwise fit the definition of homelessness.
- **Immediate Enrollment.** Children experiencing homelessness must be able to enroll in school immediately, even if they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. If the child needs to obtain immunizations, or medical or immunization records, the enrolling school must immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth to the designated local educational agency (LEA) liaison, who must assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.
 - **Comparable Services.** Homeless children must have services available that are comparable to those offered to non-homeless children. Homeless children with disabilities must have equal access to FAPE under Part B as would be provided to other children with disabilities. Their ability to participate in special education programs cannot be hindered by homelessness or such related factors as frequent school transfers.
 - **Supplemental Services.** School districts may receive McKinney-Vento subgrants that can be used to provide supplemental services such as tutoring, expedited evaluations for special education or other services, school supplies, or referrals for health services.¹

Question A-2: What rights are afforded to homeless children with disabilities under Part B?

Answer: Part B requires that all eligible children with disabilities have available to them FAPE, including special education and related services designed to meet the particular needs of each child with a disability. Children with disabilities who are homeless have the same right to FAPE under Part B as non-homeless children with disabilities. Homeless children with disabilities and their parents are subject to the same IDEA protections and requirements as children with disabilities and their parents who are not homeless. These requirements include the parental consent, evaluation, and eligibility requirements in 34 CFR §§300.300 through 300.311, the IEP requirements in 34 CFR §§300.320 through 300.324, the least restrictive environment and placement requirements in 34 CFR §§300.114 through 300.117, and the procedural safeguards and due process rights,

including the discipline procedures in 34 CFR §§300.500 through 300.536. Generally, students eligible for services under Part B also are covered by Section 504 and Title II. One way to meet the free appropriate public education requirements of Section 504 and Title II is by implementing an IEP developed in accordance with Part B of IDEA. 34 CFR §104.33(b)(2).

Appendix A
RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Where is the student currently living?

Section A	Section B
In a shelter	The choices in Section A do not apply
With more than one family in a house or apartment	
In a motel, car, or campsite	
With friends or family members (other than parent/guardian)	
<i>If you checked a box in Section A, CONTINUE to item 2 and complete the remainder of this form.</i>	<i>If you checked this section, STOP here. You do not need to complete the remainder of this form. Submit the form to school personnel.</i>

2. The student lives with:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 parent
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 parents
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 parent and another adult | <input type="checkbox"/> a relative, friend(s) or other adult(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> alone with no adult(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> an adult that is not the parent or the legal guardian |
|--|---|

School _____

Name of Student _____

Male Female Birth Date ____/____/____ Soc. Sec. # ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Name of Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) _____

Address _____
E-911 Address (Street Address)

_____, _____, _____ Telephone # (____) _____ - _____
City State Zip Code

Signature of Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) _____

School Use Only – Do Not Write in this Space.
Section A. Determination: _____ <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> _____ Principal's Signature Date </div>

For Section A choices, fax this form to the Central Office Contact Person.

Appendix B

The homeless liaison shall work to ensure that homeless children and youth, including preschoolers are identified, enrolled in school, and receive all eligible services to facilitate student academic success. The responsibilities listed below are not all-inclusive but shall be primary duties of the liaison. The homeless liaison shall ensure that:

- Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- Homeless students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in the schools of the district;
- Homeless children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, and preschool programs administered by the school system, and referrals to health, mental health, dental and other appropriate services;
- Parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- Parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services including transportation to and from the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation services;
- Transportation cost disputes between the school system and school system of enrollment are resolved;
- Sensitivity and confidentiality training is provided to transportation and school personnel regarding the needs of homeless children and youth;
- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act;
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated to locations where children and youth receive services under the Act;
- Required reports concerning the homeless education program are submitted to appropriate agencies and the State Department of Education; and
- Evaluation of the homeless education program is conducted annually and necessary program and implementation adjustments are made in a timely manner.

Confidential Information Pelham City Schools

Homeless Child Information 2016-2017

School _____ Student _____

Homeroom Teacher _____ Grade _____

Check all boxes that apply:

Female	Male	Hispanic	Vocational Ed
Asian	Black	Sp. Ed.	Other
ELL	Gifted	White	

Parent/Guardian _____

Phone Home _____ Work _____

Living Arrangements

Check all boxes that apply:

Shelter	Cars, Parks, Campgrounds	Other Specify
Doubled Up	Hotel/Motels	Lives with

Homeless Status

Check all boxes that apply:

Living with Family	Abandoned By Parent	Runaway	Foster Care Pending
Unaccompanied Youth	Home Destroyed By Natural Disaster/Other Disaster	Separated From Family	Substandard Conditions

Siblings

Please List Any Siblings, Including Preschool, of the Student.

_____ school attended _____

_____ school attended _____

_____ school attended _____

Form Completed By _____ Date _____

****Retain Original for your files and send a copy to Floyd Collins and Sevim Whitaker at Central Office****

To Be Completed By C. Office:

Eligible for Assistance _____ **Not Eligible for Assistance** _____

Homeless Liaison

Signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX D

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT DISPUTE FORM

Student's Name _____ SSN/SN _____

School Name _____ Grade _____

District Action on Complaint

Taken within _____ school days after receiving notice of the complaint. Was the complaint resolved at the district level? _____ yes _____ no

If the dispute was resolved at the district level, describe the action taken by the county homeless liaison to resolve the dispute to the satisfaction of the complainant:

If the dispute was not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, did the county homeless liaison convene a meeting of the interested parties to attempt resolution of the dispute? _____ yes _____ no
If yes, when and where did the meeting take place? Describe the outcome of the meeting.

If no, will a meeting be held for resolution purposes? When? Where?

If a resolution cannot be derived at the district level, the county homeless liaison should assist the complainant in contacting service organizations to provide technical assistance to the complainant. Did the county homeless liaison assist the complainant in this manner? _____ yes _____ no
Name of service organization contacted for assistance _____

Was the dispute resolved? _____ Date _____
Describe the resolution.

Complainant Signature

Homeless Liaison