



Educational Stability Programming

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, ensure educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has adopted Section 725(2) of this Act regarding the definition of homeless children and youth to include:

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or have a primary nighttime residence in a supervised, publicly or privately, operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This definition shall include: children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; children and youth who 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; children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above; and unaccompanied youth a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Identification

Faculty and staff will be trained at least once annually regarding the process for identifying students who may be eligible for supports and services under the McKinney-Vento Act or other above considerations. This training will be provided by the District's Homeless Education Liaison or designee. The training shall include but not be limited to ensuring faculty and staff have access to definitions regarding eligibility and an understanding of the process for referring students to proper authorities in the building in a timely and careful manner that ensures students confidentiality consistent with FERPA. Additionally, transportation staff are trained by the Transportation Manager to identify and report any concerning changes or disruptions to a student's transportation patterns as they may relate to this status.

Notice of Rights Under McKinney-Vento

Attendance and Success: Identified students and/or unaccompanied youth have the right to fully attend and participate in all school activities, classes, educational opportunities, meals, social and athletic events, clubs, teams, and other services. These students, their parents/guardians and/or caretakers will be

provided information by the District Homeless Education Liaison or designee regarding their rights under McKinney-Vento as well as available services and supports.

Barriers to Continued Enrollment

ENSATSD will presume that it is in the best interest¹ of identified students to maintain their enrollment in their school of origin, Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School, and furthermore, in their Career Technical Program, through the end of the school year in which the student obtains permanent housing, despite their temporary residency due to homelessness or unaccompanied youth status, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the student's parent/guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth. Furthermore, the district will ensure that these students have the opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic and Career Technical Education (CTE) standards as other children and youth. In order to facilitate this, the District Homeless Education Liaison or designee will coordinate the following services and supports:

Transportation: ENSATSD policies ensure that enrolled students have access to transportation up to a 20 mile radius from campus. The Homeless Education Liaison or designee will coordinate with the Transportation Manager or designee to identify bus routes and stops as necessary when a student's residence has changed due to McKinney-Vento considerations. This is done discreetly and privately to ensure that the student and family's personal circumstances are kept confidential consistent with FERPA. Should a student require transportation beyond the districts' 20 mile perimeter, the Transportation Manager will work with the district of residence and/or community based contacts to arrange for transportation. Allocations will be committed in the district budget annually to support this service in anticipation of possible need. Title I funds may also be considered as well as necessary and appropriate.

School Based Meals: Students identified and deemed eligible for services, supports and protections under McKinney-Vento will be designated eligible for participation in Federal, State, or local food programs. The District Homeless Education Liaison will collaborate with Food Services personnel to ensure timely if not expedited access to participation in Federal, State, or local food programs.

Supplies/Fees: Students identified under McKinney-Vento will be provided with the necessary school supplies, including but not limited to supplies needed to access their Career Technical Program (e.g.: uniforms, tools, etc.) and/or athletics/extracurricular programs (e.g.: waiver of athletic fees; support with Skills USA travel or conference fees, etc.). Furthermore, students will be advised of post-secondary planning opportunities and eligibility for fee waivers for post-secondary applications (e.g., FAFSA). Allocations will be committed in the district budget annually to support this service in anticipation of possible need. Title I funds may also be considered as well as necessary and appropriate.

Access to School-Based Support Services: Collaborative efforts will be made to provide identified students with appropriate school-based supports. This will primarily be facilitated by the school based counselors and/or Assistant Principals consistent with the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP).

Dispute Resolution

In the event that ENSATSD determines that it will deny a student’s continued enrollment or right to enroll in the school selected by the parent/guardian/unaccompanied minor, ENSATSD will comply with the notice and dispute resolution process established by DESE.

Family and Community Collaboration

The District Homeless Education Liaison or designee will provide proper and necessary outreach to parents/guardians, caretakers and/or unaccompanied youth of identified students consistent with FERPA and McKinney-Vento guidelines. The District Homeless Education Liaison or designee will review the student and family’s rights. Furthermore, the District Homeless Education Liaison or designee will remind parent/guardians, caretakers and/or the unaccompanied youth that ENSATSD will not require residency verifications from host families to meet residency requirements otherwise expected to ensure proper school and/or CTE program enrollment.

The District Homeless Education Liaison or designee will also offer the following:

Access to Health Insurance: Families will be offered information to access Mass Health as needed and appropriate.

Access to Shelter Resources: Families will be offered information to access Shelter resources as needed and appropriate.

Access to Community Based Supports: When appropriate, the District Homeless Education Liaison or designee may help facilitate referrals to community based social service agencies.

To identify a student eligible for support and intervention consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, contact: Sandra Goldstein, MSW, Guidance Director
ENSATSD District Homeless Education Liaison
sgoldstein@essextech.net (978) 304-4700

Should a concerns regarding ENSATSD’s implementation of this policy arise, please forward a written statement to:

The Office of the Superintendent
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District
562 Maple Street
Hathorne, MA 01937

For more information see also:

[Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#)

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/haa/>

-McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Program

-McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance - Advisories