

Bracken County Schools

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For Immediate Release

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The purpose of this release is to inform the public of the educational rights of homeless children and youths under the McKinney-Vento Act. It is more important than ever to ensure homeless children and youths do not face obstacles to enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Who are homeless children and youths?

Homeless children and youths are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- **Children and youths 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; or are abandoned in hospitals;**
- **Children and youths 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 youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and**
- **Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.**

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State and local educational agencies (SEAs and LEAs) must ensure that homeless children and youths have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths. To this end, SEAs and LEAs must review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success of homeless children and youths in school. In particular, SEAs and LEAs must review and revise policies to remove barriers to enrollment and retention in school for homeless students. Additionally, SEAs and LEAs must identify and remove barriers that prevent homeless youths separated from public schools from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school.

Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and other services they need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. Furthermore, SEAs, LEAs, and schools may not separate students from the mainstream school environment on the basis of their homelessness.

To help ensure that homeless children and youths enroll, and have a full opportunity to succeed, in the schools of the LEA, every LEA must designate a local liaison for homeless children and youths. In addition, every SEA must have an Office of Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths and must post local liaison contact information on its website.

This coordination will ensure that homeless children, youths, and their families are connected to and receiving the critical services and supports they need while experiencing homelessness, including housing assistance, health care, and food.

If you need further information or have questions regarding the education of children and youths experiencing homelessness, please contact Daniel Fisher at 606-735-2523 or Daniel.fisher@bracken.kyschools.us