



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education

If you are currently experiencing homelessness, your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

# YOU ARE MOVING

*We want to share some important information with you about your upcoming or recent move.*

*When you move from your current homeless situation to a different homeless program or living arrangement, your school-aged child can either enroll in the local school district where you are moving to or stay in their current school.*

*To do this, please connect with the homeless liaison or family engagement specialist in your new community or at your child's current school. The homeless liaison or family engagement specialist can also help connect you to local community resources.*



# MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

*The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a United States Department of Education federal program that ensures children from kindergarten through 12th grade can enroll, attend, and succeed in school.*

*In Massachusetts, the required school age is from six (6) to sixteen (16) years old. Your child has the right to attend school once they turn six years old. The local school district offers free public education from kindergarten to 12th grade.*

*If you live in a shelter or do not have permanent housing, your school-aged child can either:*

- Start school in the new school in your new community, or*
- Keep attending the school your child started in your last community if that is what you choose and is possible*
- If needed, the school will work with you and local community agencies to gather any necessary paperwork, such as immunization records and birth certificates.*
- If you decide to keep attending the school your child started at in your last community, transportation will be offered from where you are staying to the school without any fee.*
- Your child will receive educational services based on their learning and needs if the school refuses to provide services.*
- You can ask for a meeting with the school principal to understand and learn about your child's education rights. Your child may be able to access Special Education Services if they need additional help with their learning. You can request an evaluation or continue support if your child has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP).*
- Additionally, your child can participate in any school activities that are available for all students, and*
- Your child can receive free school meals.*