



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.

REGISTER FOR SCHOOL

All school-aged children in Massachusetts can attend public school for free. Students experiencing housing instability or homelessness can:

- Start school in the local public school; or
- Continue attending their “school of origin” (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is the family’s preference.
 - If the school district believes that the school the family selected is not in the best interest of the students, then the district must provide the family with a written explanation and inform the family of its right to appeal the decision.
- If needed, the school will work with the family and local community agencies to gather any necessary paperwork, such as immunization records and birth certificates.
- If the family decides to keep attending the school their child started at in their last community, transportation will be offered from where the student is staying to the school without any fee.
- Students will receive educational services based on their learning and needs.
- Parents can ask for a meeting with the school principal to understand and learn about their child’s education rights.
- Additionally, students can participate in school activities that are available for all students.
- Students can receive free school meals.

