

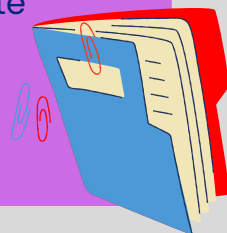
HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE  
*tips for* **SCHOOL  
ADMIN**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of students in temporary housing (“experiencing homelessness”). It defines “homeless children and youths” as any student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**School administrators set the example for how students and families in temporary housing need to be treated (with respect and dignity).**

### HOW CAN I IDENTIFY STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING?

- Consider that students in temporary housing may not be prepared for class, tardy to school, have irregular attendance and multiple school enrollments, lack participation in school activities, or inconsistent with hygiene, etc.
- Notify the family of their child's right to immediate enrollment regardless if they do not have a permanent address, immunization records, birth certificate, and other necessary documents.
- Refer the family to the school site homeless liaison



### HOW CAN I ENSURE I AM COMPLYING WITH THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT?

- Continue educating the school community and offer advocacy and empathy to students/families
- Encourage staff to use phrases sensitive to the student/family's situation such as “temporarily housed” or “in transition” instead of homeless.
- Train staff on trauma-sensitive approaches.
- Ensure the student/family feel safe and welcomed; allow for privacy when speaking about their living situation. FERPA protects a student’s housing status, therefore their nighttime residence may only be shared within an educational context.
- Connect the student to helpful school and community resources that support the student's learning and well-being.

**For additional support, please contact the Homeless Education Office at (213) 202-7581**