



HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE

tips for **SCHOOL TEACHERS**

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.

By creating a classroom environment that is safe and supportive for all students, teachers can support students in temporary housing.

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING?

- Student may be unprepared for class, forgetful, have irregular attendance, frequently tardy, enrollment at multiple schools, lack of participation in school activities, inconsistent hygiene, etc.
- If you learn that a student is temporarily housed, take a trauma-sensitive approach, Homelessness can carry a stigma; it is important to be sensitive; try using “temporarily housed” rather than homeless.
- Create a safe space for the student and make them feel welcomed.
- Ensure the student has equal access to participate in school activities.

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

- Contact the designated school site homeless liaison and ensure student has a Student Housing Questionnaire on file.
- Notify the appropriate staff; they can assist with providing resources related to health/social/academic needs.
- Maintain the student's right to confidentiality. FERPA protects a student's housing status, therefore their nighttime residence may only be shared within an educational context.



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