



815-223-1111

Peru Elementary School District 124

Northview Elementary School

2100 Plum Street
Peru, Illinois 61354

School District Office

1800 Church Street
Peru, Illinois 61354

Parkside Middle School

1800 Church Street
Peru, Illinois 61354

www.perued.net

The **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act** is a federal law that ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The goal of the McKinney-Vento Act is to provide equal access to education, despite the challenges posed by homelessness, and to help these students achieve academic success. Here's a breakdown of who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services, their rights, and the dispute process:

Who Qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services?

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children and youth who are experiencing homelessness are entitled to specific educational services. Those who qualify include:

1. **Children and Youth Living in Shelters:** Families or individuals living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or temporary accommodations.
2. **Doubled-Up Families:** Children and youth who are temporarily staying with friends, relatives, or others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
3. **Unsheltered Individuals:** Children and youth living in cars, parks, campgrounds, or other places not designed for regular sleeping accommodations.
4. **Migratory Children:** Migrant children who are homeless, moving from one location to another, often in search of work or better living conditions.
5. **Runaway and Throwaway Youth:** Children who have run away from home or were abandoned by their guardians.

Rights of Students Under McKinney-Vento:

McKinney-Vento ensures the following rights for eligible students:

1. **Right to Enroll:** Students experiencing homelessness have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have the necessary documentation (e.g., school records, proof of residence).
2. **Right to Stability:** Students have the right to continue their education in the same school even if they are temporarily residing in a different area, as long as it is feasible and in their best interest.
3. **Right to Transportation:** If it is feasible, students have the right to transportation to their school of origin, even if they are living in a different area. This can be arranged by the school district.
4. **Right to Services:** Homeless students are entitled to the same educational services as other students, such as free meals, special education services, and English language services, as needed.
5. **Right to Participate in Extracurricular Activities:** Homeless students are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.), on the same basis as other students.

Dispute Process:

If there is a disagreement about a student's eligibility for McKinney-Vento services or the services they should receive, the following dispute process applies:

1. **Immediate Enrollment:** If a dispute arises regarding enrollment, the student must be immediately enrolled in school while the dispute is being resolved.
2. **Notification and Documentation:** The school must notify the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth about their rights under the McKinney-Vento Act and the procedures to resolve the dispute.
3. **Local Dispute Resolution Process:** The school district must have a dispute resolution process in place. This usually involves contacting the local liaison for McKinney-Vento services. If the issue is not resolved, the parent or guardian may appeal the decision to a higher district authority.
4. **State Dispute Resolution:** If the dispute remains unresolved at the district level, parents, guardians, or youth can appeal to the state education agency. The state must ensure that the dispute is handled fairly and expediently.
5. **Timely Resolution:** The dispute process must be completed quickly so that students do not face barriers to their education while waiting for a resolution.

Key Takeaways:

- **Eligibility** for McKinney-Vento services includes students who are homeless, including those living in shelters, cars, or doubled-up situations.
- **Rights** include immediate enrollment, stability in school attendance, transportation, access to services, and participation in extracurricular activities.
- **Dispute Process** ensures that families have the ability to appeal decisions regarding eligibility and services, with protections to ensure that the student can continue their education during the dispute.

These protections are essential to help children and youth experiencing homelessness access and maintain a quality education. Schools are required to support these students to ensure they have equal opportunities for academic success.

Peru Elementary Schools Homeless Liaison

Mindy Davis 815-223-1111 ext. 105

State Coordinator

Kate Ulmer
217-782-5270

If you need further assistance with your educational needs, contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145
homeless@serve.org
<http://nche.ed.gov>

Area Resources for Families

PADS Homeless Shelter
1320 Menards Avenue
Peru, IL 61354
815-224-3047

Housing Authority for LaSalle County
526 E. Norris Drive
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-434-0380

Illinois Valley Food Pantry
122 Wright Street
La Salle, IL 61301
815-224-3658

La Salle County Human Services Department
1550 1st Avenue
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-1572

Tri Counties Opportunities Council
308 N 30th Road
La Salle, IL 61301
815-224-0028