

The **ERESC McKinney Vento Homeless Education Program** is established to serve as a resource to help school officials, parents and local community organizations and to facilitate the effective enrollment of displaced (homeless) children and youth and to facilitate the effective delivery of necessary services to homeless children and youth

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

To help school districts with the identification and enrollment of homeless children and youth.

To ensure that homeless students continue to attend school by reducing the stigma of homelessness to the student, facilitating parent education, training, and integrating homeless children with non-homeless students.

To coordinate educational services that will enable homeless students to meet the same high quality content and performance standards that all children in New Jersey public schools are expected to meet.

### **KEY ELEMENTS TO THE PROGRAM**

- *District Homeless Liaison Training*
- *Inter-agency collaborations*
- *Parent Training*
- *Facilitating access to educational services*
- *Facilitating homeless children enrollment in school*

### **WHO IS CONSIDERED HOMELESS?**

Children and youth who lack fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who live in the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- “Doubled up” with friends or relatives because they cannot find or afford housing
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations
- Unaccompanied children or youth (not in the physical custody of their parents or guardians)
- Children or youth awaiting foster care placement



### **KEY DEFINITIONS**

**“Enroll” or “enrollment”** means attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

**“Immediate” or “immediately”** means at the instant that the need for placement is made known.

**“School district of origin”** means the school district in which the parent last resided prior to becoming homeless.

### **RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS**

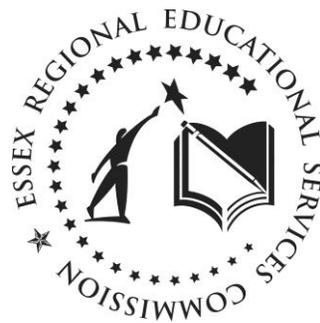
Under the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act, homeless students are entitled to:

- Free and appropriate education;
- Attend and enroll immediately even if unable to provide records required for enrollment;
- Enroll or remain in school without a permanent address;
- Stay in school of origin (to the extent feasible);
- Go to school where the child last attended or school where child is temporarily living;
- Transportation (to the extent feasible);
- Participate in extracurricular activities and/or special education services if eligible;
- Written explanation and appeal if educational placement is denied;
- Automatically qualify for free and reduced meals at school.

The program is sponsored under the auspices of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of the Improving America's School Act of 1994 P.L. 103-382.



The Essex Regional Educational Services Commission does not discriminate due to race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or ethnicity.



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**MCKINNEY VENTO  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM**



*helping  
children  
to succeed*

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