

Helpful Reminders about the McKinney-Vento Program



Law

- The **best interest of the student** weighs in on all aspects of McKinney-Vento.
- **Incoming Kindergartners do not have a “school of origin”**, even if they have a sibling at the school.
- **If the school suspects a parent is falsifying homelessness, you must follow the law first** and follow up later.
- **If a homeless parent/student doesn’t provide enrollment documents** (proof residence, immunization records, etc.) **within 30 days, they cannot be withdrawn**. You can contact a district liaison to assist the family in obtaining documents.
- **Transportation to the school of origin can cross county lines**.
- Students are eligible for **free lunch**. It is not necessary for students to apply.

Practices

- It is key to **ask questions during the withdrawal process**. This may lead to homeless identification.
- **Share homeless status only with PCPS personnel on a “need to know” basis**. Be careful on who is around you (other parents, etc.).
- **It is best to say “transitional housing” or “living circumstance”** rather than using the term “homeless” with families.

Genesis

- **HEARTH staff will enter homeless students into Genesis in a separate database**.
- Only homeless students with enrollment form assistance are assigned a transfer code.
- **The Genesis homeless database is cleared out in July**. This does not mean they are no longer homeless, it just means that **we need to re-identify/verify their living arrangement**.