



2011-2012 STUDENT HOMELESS POLICY (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, students who lack night-time residence that is fixed, regular or adequate are identified as a homeless situation. The description of a fixed, regularly and adequate residence is detailed below:

- **FIXED** - a residence that is stationary, permanent and not subject to change.
- **REGULAR** - a residence that is used on a predictable or routine basis.
- **ADEQUATE** - a residence that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

Students experiencing homelessness are entitled to **immediate enrollment** and may be excluded from providing prior-school records, immunization and medical records, proof of residency, birth certificate and other documents normally required upon submission. A McKinney-Vento **Model Enrollment Form-Residency Questionnaire** must be completed for each child experiencing homelessness.

Once homelessness is determined, the student qualifies for the following:

- Transportation to and from school within a 50 mile radius.
- Free meals served at school.

In addition to the benefits above, the Parent Coordinator is to do the following:

- Request prior school records.
- Monitor residency of family and conduct home visit, if necessary.
- Link students with health services, if needed.
- Inform parents/guardians about educational opportunities.
- Assist parents/guardians in resolving disputes.
- Assist parents/guardians in all matters deemed reasonable.

Refer to the following sources for additional information regarding McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

- NYS-TEACHS - phone 800-388-2014, e-mail info@advocatesforchildren.org, website www.nysteachs.org.
- NYS Education Department, Pat McGuirk - phone 472-1236, e-mail pmcguirk@mail.nysed.gov, website www.emsc.nysed.gov/nyc/homeless.

... for a brighter future.