Know Your Rights: Going Back to School After the Tornadoes

School aged children who lost their homes in the Memorial Day tornadoes may qualify for help to succeed in school, under the McKinney-Vento Act. Children in many common situations are considered “homeless” for help from this law. Many children can stay in last year’s school, even if their temporary place is in another school district.

Children this law can help could be living:
- with friends or family
- in a hotel/motel
- in a shelter
- in a car or RV
- any other place which is not permanent, fixed housing for them

Call your liaison for help with:
- Enrolling in school (either where you are now or staying in last year’s school)
- Transportation
- Uniforms
- School supplies
- Getting copies of vaccination or birth certificates
- After school activity services
- School fee waivers
- Referrals to health, counseling, dental, and other services

Due to the number of children who have been displaced by the tornadoes, contact your school district liaison as soon as possible!

Examples Of Children Who Qualify for McKinney-Vento Services

John
is a high school student. After the tornadoes, he and his family moved in with his grandparents while the family home is being repaired. It is very important to him to finish his senior year at his school of origin, which would be the one he went to during the 2018-2019 school year.

Sara
is a first-grade student. After the tornadoes destroyed her home, she is living in a motel while her family awaits section 8 housing. She can return to her school of origin, but her parents decided that it would be best for her to attend school where they are living so that she does not have a long bus ride. She can enroll and start classes there right away without all the papers normally needed.

Both children would qualify as “homeless” under McKinney-Vento
Their parents can decide to:
- Enroll in the school district where they live in temporary housing or
- Go back to the school they went to last year (school of origin) with free transportation from the schools

Call Your McKinney-Vento Liaison for Help

Beavercreek Schools
Bobbie Fiori 937-458-2414

Brookville Schools
Tim Hopkins 937-833-2181

Dayton Schools
Christine Pruitt 937-542-3304

Northridge Schools
Nick Price 937-275-7469 ext. 2004

Trotwood Schools
Ella Jordan-Isaac 937-854-3050 ext. 1181

Ohio Department of Education, McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Susannah Wayland 614-387-7725

Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. are non-profit law firms serving the civil legal needs of western Ohio's low income individuals and families. This information is not legal advice. It is general information. It is not a substitute for talking to a lawyer about your situation. You may still need help from a lawyer.
RE: McKinney-Vento Act Request for Help

Address where child is currently staying:
Address where child was staying before becoming “homeless”:

Desired school:
Principal of child’s school:

Child’s name, DOB, Grade:

Dear __________________________ (principal):
__________________________________________ (name of child) is/are “homeless” under the McKinney-Vento Act and protected by its terms. (Choose one:)

| The child can attend this school because it is where they attended before (the “school of origin”). |
| The child can attend this school because it is near where they are staying now. |

I do not need to apply for open enrollment, nor present complete enrollment paperwork such as proof of residency. I am also asking for help with: (choose multiple)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IEP</th>
<th>504 Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School breakfast and lunch</td>
<td>Sports team uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td>School uniforms</td>
<td>No Club or Sport Team fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Copies of past school and immunization records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School supplies</td>
<td>Medical or dental appointment help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No school fees</td>
<td>Clothes and shoes for PE/gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help applying to college</td>
<td>No SAT or ACT test fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help for the child to learn English</td>
<td>Other:</td>
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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. You can reach me at _______________. Thank you for your cooperation.

ATTENTION to school employee: Please complete the below, detach, and return to parent/guardian.

A McKinney Vento Act letter was hand delivered by the parent/guardian of ________________ to ________________ on ________________ (date).