

McKinney-Vento and Head Start Ensuring Access to Early Education

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Kansas Head Start
Collaboration Office

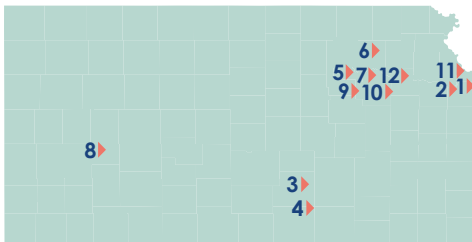
In Kansas, McKinney-Vento liaisons in the school system have been appointed to help homeless children and families access the services to which they are entitled, including early education. Connecting families with the appropriate liaison can provide a much-needed sense of stability and security for kids grappling with highly stressful situations.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act protects the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness, a status defined as one of the following situations:

- ▶ Lacking a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence (substandard housing)
- ▶ Sharing housing with others due to economic struggles
- ▶ Living in a shelter, hotel or motel; or public place not designed for sleeping (cars, parks)
- ▶ Unaccompanied (e.g. not in the physical custody of a parent or court-appointed guardian) or abandoned at a hospital
- ▶ Qualifying under any of the above as a migrant child

Homeless children are categorically eligible for Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs, regardless of income. In accordance with national Head Start Performance Standards, HS and EHS programs may reserve one or more enrollment slots for children and pregnant women experiencing homelessness. In addition, programs are required to:

- ▶ Share housing with others due to economic struggles?
- ▶ Actively locate and recruit homeless children
- ▶ Allow homeless children to attend without immunization and other records for up to 90 days
- ▶ Make efforts to maintain enrollment of homeless children if they move to a new service area
- ▶ Utilize community resources, where possible, to provide transportation for homeless children who would otherwise be unable to attend classes



McKinney-Vento Programs in Kansas

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|--|---|---|---|
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For a full list of liaisons for homeless services by district, visit the Kansas State Department of Education website at ▶

www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Title%20Programs%20and%20Services/Homeless/Contacts.pdf

Kansas Head Start Collaboration Office

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Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas