McKinney Vento Act:

In Indiana, over 29,000 children experience homelessness each year. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was created with the goal of ensuring the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.

The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for homeless students. This includes waiving certain requirements such as proof of residency when students are enrolling and allowing eligibility for certain services, such as free textbooks.

When families and students find themselves in transition due to their housing situation, it is important that they know their rights regarding education.

Who is Homeless?

Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence:

- "Double up" - Sharing the housing of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.
- Migratory children living in above circumstances
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Unaccompanied Youth - Children or youth who meets the definition of homeless and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

List of Homeless Students Rights:

If students meet the requirements as stated in the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C 11431 et seq., Title VII, Subtitle B), their rights are as follows:

- Students may attend their school of origin or the school where they are temporarily residing.
- Students must be provided a written statement of their rights when they enroll and at least two additional times per year.
- Students may enroll without school, medical or similar records.
- Students have a right to transportation to school.
- Students must be provided a statement explaining why they are denied enrollment or any other services.
- Students must receive services, such as transportation, while disputes are being settled.
- Students are automatically eligible for Title I services.
- School districts must reserve a portion of Title IA funds to serve homeless students;
- School districts must review and revise policies that provide barriers to homeless students;
- Schools must post information in the community regarding the rights of homeless students, in schools and other places that homeless families may frequent; and
- School districts must identify a McKinney Vento Liaison to assist students.

McKinney-Vento District Liaison:

- Mary Story
- mstory@bgcs.k12.in.us
- 317-788-4481 (Ext: 1048)

IDOE Homeless Education State Coordinator:

- Charie Jones
- McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov
- 317-232-0957

Please click **HERE** for a Directory of State and Federal Resources:

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Beech Grove City Schools McKinney Vento District Plan
- Servant's Heart of Indy - Serving the Needs of Families in Beech Grove
- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)