

FAQ's

What are McKinney-Vento Services?

McKinney-Vento Services are services that are provided to students in residential transition to help them enroll, attend and/or succeed in school. They include: free lunch, school supplies, uniforms, transportation and literacy programs.

My family is living with someone temporarily. Do we qualify?

Families that are "doubled-up" due to lack of affordable housing or economic hardship frequently qualify for services.

I am under 18 years old and not living with a legal guardian. Do I qualify?

Unaccompanied youth that lack a regular, adequate, and fixed nighttime residence qualify for McKinney-Vento services.

Can my child continue to attend their school even if we move out of its district?

Children in transition have the right to remain in their "school of origin" for the remainder of the year if requested by their parent/guardian and feasible.

Can you find me shelter or housing?

We work with, and are able to, refer you to emergency shelter and social service providers in Sarasota.

"The hardest thing is trying to get over your challenges in life and move on. But going to school is very important because your education determines what you are going to do in life."

— D.C., formerly homeless student



Schoolhouse Link H.E.L.P.

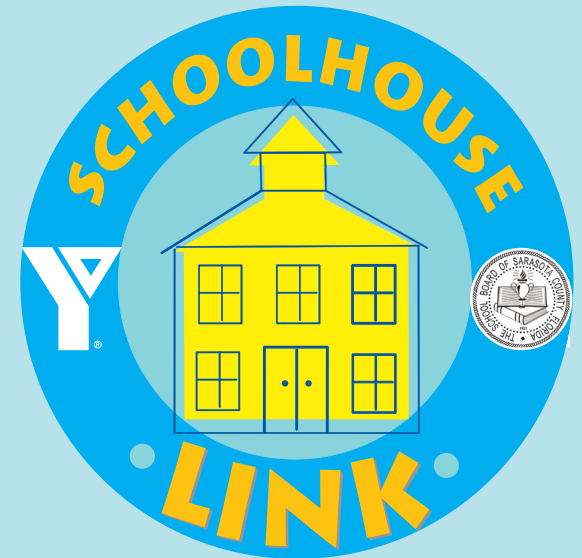
(Homeless Education
Literacy Program)

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H.E.L.P.

for students
in transition
to enroll, attend and
succeed in school

941.951.1558

enroll/attend/succeed

Is my family in transition?

According to the federal McKinney-Vento Act reauthorized in 2001 a family is considered in transition (or homeless) if they lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes anyone who due to lack of appropriate housing lives:

- Temporarily "Doubled-up" with relatives or friends due to financial reasons
- In emergency or transitional shelters
- Temporarily in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to financial reasons
- Awaiting permanent placement in foster care
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings

ALSO:

- Migratory children living in these conditions
- An unaccompanied youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian in any of the above situations.

enroll attend succeed

Your child's rights

Every child has a right to a free and appropriate public education. Florida Statute s.1003.21 requires that all children attend school regularly until they are 16. Children in transition who fit the McKinney-Vento definition have the right to:

- Enroll and attend school no matter where they live or how long you have lived there.
- Have access to the same public education provided to housed children.
- Enroll in school without a permanent address. Enrollment cannot be delayed due to lack of residency.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for transfer of records required for enrollment.
- Continue in the school they attended before becoming homeless or the last school attended, if possible and if in their best interest.
- Request assistance with transportation to school. Receive the same special programs and services as provided to all other children in these programs.
- Have any enrollment disputes heard and resolved while the student continues to attend classes.

Our services

Free school supplies and backpacks

Free breakfast and lunch for remainder of school year

Free school uniforms and emergency clothing

Enrollment assistance

Transportation assistance

Tutoring at select sites

PreK information and referrals

Case management

Scholarship information and assistance

Connection to YMCA services and programs

Referrals to community health, shelter and social service providers

All services are free!

