



## Comparison of McKinney-Vento and Head Start Provisions for Young Homeless Children

Provision/Issue	The McKinney-Vento Act	The Head Start Act
Definition of Homelessness	Includes shelters, streets, "sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason," and living in motels "due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations"	Identical definition.
Identification Requirements	School district homeless liaisons are required to ensure that homeless children are identified by school personnel and through collaboration with community agencies. This includes preschool age children.	Head Start programs are required to identify homeless children. The Secretary of HHS must issue regulations. Regulations have not been issued yet.
Enrollment Requirements	School districts are required to immediately enroll homeless children and youth. If a child does not have immunization or immunization records, the liaison must assist the family to obtain the immunization/immunization records; the child is enrolled while records are obtained.	Homeless families must be allowed to enroll and participate in Head Start programs while required documentation is obtained within a reasonable time frame. The Secretary of HHS must issue regulations. Regulations have not been issued yet.
Collaboration Requirements 	School district homeless liaisons must ensure that homeless children receive Head Start and preschool programs administered by the school district.  State Coordinators must coordinate with social services agencies, child development and preschool program personnel and other agencies to provide comprehensive services to preschoolers	Head Start programs are required to collaborate with efforts to implement the McKinney-Vento Act. The Secretary must issue regulations. Regulations have not been issued yet.  Each Head Start program must establish <u>channels of communication between Head Start staff and McKinney-Vento liaisons</u> to facilitate coordination of programs. 

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Referrals and Services	School district homeless liaisons must make referrals for health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.	Head Start must provide comprehensive services, including screenings, health, dental, and mental health, to every enrolled child.
Transportation	<p>For school-age children and youth, school districts must provide transportation to and from the child's school of origin at the request of the parent, or, for unaccompanied youth, the request of the liaison (if staying in the school of origin is in the child's best interest).</p> <p>For all homeless children, school districts must provide comparable transportation services.</p> <p>School districts are required to remove barriers to enrollment and retention for homeless children. This includes transportation barriers. + <i>Tutoring</i></p>	Head Start programs are not required to provide transportation. However, the Secretary of HH must issue regulations to remove barriers to homeless children's enrollment and participation in Head Start. Regulations have not been issued yet. Transportation barriers may be addressed in these regulations. Liaisons can help Head Start review transportation barriers for homeless children in the Head Start community needs assessment.
Parental Involvement	School districts homeless liaisons must ensure that parents are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.	Head Start performance standards mandate a wide range of parent involvement, including parent input in their children's education as well as program policies and governance. Head Start programs have staff working directly with parents, as well as activities specifically for fathers and other males in children's lives, grand parents, and foster parents.