



### **Authorization and Funding History of the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program**

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (referred to as the McKinney-Vento Act) is a federal law designed to remove barriers to education created by homelessness, and thereby increase the enrollment, attendance, and success of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act was passed in 1987 and was most recently amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. This document provides a historical summary of the amendments to the McKinney-Vento Act, as well as the federal appropriation levels from FY1987 to FY2016. For more information, see [www.schoolhouseconnection.org](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)

#### 1987 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77)

The 1987 Act was omnibus legislation that consisted of fifteen programs providing a range of services to homeless people, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, job training, primary health care, education, and some permanent housing.

Subtitle VII-B of the Act addressed the educational barriers experienced by homeless children and youth. This subtitle:

- Instituted a two-year Federal grant program calling for each state department of education to establish an office of the Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The coordinator is responsible for gathering statewide data for the U.S. Department of Education on the number and school attendance rates of homeless children, and for writing state plans for educating these children.
- Stated that it is the policy of Congress that all homeless children have the right to a free, appropriate education
- Required States to review and revise their laws and policies to eliminate residency requirements as an obstacle to school enrollment and admission for homeless children and youth.
- Required that each homeless child be allowed to maintain enrollment in the school the child attended before becoming homeless, or to enroll in the school where the child is located, whichever is in the child's best interest.

- Directed the Comptroller General to prepare and submit a report on homeless children to the Congress by June 30, 1988.
- Required the Secretary of Education to: (1) make grants to State and local educational agencies for exemplary programs for homeless students; and (2) disseminate information on such exemplary program to other State and local educational agencies. Authorizes FY 1988 appropriations.

Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-645)

- Added to the policy of Congress that homelessness alone should not be sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.
- Revised the grant program for the education of homeless children and youth to: (1) permit grants to local agencies under specified conditions; (2) obligate specified funds for Indian programs and programs in the Territories; (3) provide programs for school personnel to heighten awareness of the education and related problems of homeless children and youth; and (4) provide for liaison with social service agencies and with homeless families.
- Authorized: (1) appropriations through FY 1993; and (2) States to reserve up to five percent of such funds for related State activities.
- Replaced the exemplary grant program with a program of grants for the educational success of homeless children and youth. Provides with regard to such grants that: (1) State educational agencies shall make funds available to local educational agencies; (2) services may be provided on school grounds or other nonsectarian facilities; (3) at least 50 percent of grant amounts shall be for primary education activities, and between 35 percent and 50 percent of grant amounts shall be for related activities; and (4) grant awards shall be for a two-year maximum.

Title III, Part B, of Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No: 103-382)

Included in Title III, Amendments to Other Acts, Part B, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Subtitle B:

- Removed 50% local grant requirement for primary education activities
- Included pre-school children in definition of free, appropriate public education and added pre-school coordination requirements at the state and local level
- Included requirements that districts abide by parent's request to enroll a homeless child in a particular school, to the extent feasible
- Requires liaisons in districts receiving funds to provide eligible homeless families, children and youth with educational services including Head Start. Even Start and local preschool programs, if available.
- Required liaisons in districts receiving subgrants to coordinate with State and local housing agencies responsible for developing the "Comprehensive Housing Strategies"
- Authorizes \$30 million for 1995, and such sums as may be necessary for the following four years.

On October 30, 2000 President William Clinton renamed the legislation the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act after the death of Representative Bruce Vento, a leading supporter of the act since its original passage in 1987.  
Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act, 2001 (Public Law 107-110)

Included in Title X, Part C, Amendments to Other Acts, Miscellaneous:

- Requires the designation of a liaison in every school district. Liaison duties include posting public notice, identifying eligible children, resolving disputes, arranging transportation
- Requires school districts to keep homeless children in their schools of origin, if feasible and if desired by parent's or guardians
- Requires transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested by a parent or guardian
- Requires the immediate school enrollment of homeless children and youth
- Includes dispute resolution processes at the state and local level
- Includes provisions to assist unaccompanied homeless youth
- Prohibits segregation by housing status
- Raises authorization level to \$70 million

Title IX, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-95)

Included in Title IX, Education for the Homeless and Other Laws, Part A, Homeless Children and Youths:

- Requires liaisons to be able to carry out their duties, and to participate in training provided by the SEA, as deemed appropriate by the State Coordinator. New liaison duties for pre-school children, unaccompanied youth, and professional development.
- Requires State Coordinators to be able to sufficiently carry out their duties. New state duties include providing professional development, monitoring LEAs, providing an updated list of liaisons and the number of homeless children and youth on the SEA website, and additional coordination responsibilities.
- Requires school districts to conduct best interest determinations for school selection that consider student-centered factors, presume that it is in homeless children and youth's best interest to stay in their schools of origin, and prioritize the wishes of the parent, guardian, or youth.
- Amends the definition of school of origin to include feeder schools and preschools.
- Requires transportation to the school of origin until end of the school year in which a child or youth receives permanent housing, if staying in the school of origin is in the child or youth's best interest.
- Requires state and local policies to remove barriers to identification, credit accrual, fees, fines, and absences.
- Removes "awaiting foster care placement" from the definition of homelessness one year after enactment for most states (two years after enactment for AR, DE, and NV).
- Raises authorized funding level to \$85 million

**The McKinney-Vento Act's  
Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program**

**Appropriations History**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1987	\$4.6 million
1988	\$4.8 million
1989	\$4.8 million
1990	\$7.4 million
1991	\$7.3 million
1992	\$25 million
1993	\$24.8 million
1994	\$25.4 million
1995	\$28.8 million
1996	\$23 million
1997	\$25 million
1998	\$28.8 million
1999	\$28.8 million
2000	\$28.8 million
2001	\$35 million
2002	\$50 million
2003	\$54.6 million
2004	\$60 million
2005	\$62.5 million
2006	\$61.9 million
2007	\$61.9 million
2008	\$64 million
2009	\$65.4 million (regular appropriation); \$70 million (ARRA stimulus dollars)
2010	\$65.4 million
2011	\$65.3 million (reflects .2% across the board cuts to discretionary programs)
2012	\$65.2 million (reflects .2% across the board cuts to discretionary programs)
2013	\$61.7 million (reflects 5.5% cut for sequestration).
2014	\$65.042 million
2015	\$65.042 million
2016	\$70 million

Note: The authorized funding level for the EHCY program was raised from \$70 million to \$85 million by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.