

Understanding McKinney-Vento Assistance for Homeless Youth Mississinewa Community Schools

What is the definition of homeless?

1. Children and youth who:
 - a. share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 - b. are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
 - c. are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - d. are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
4. Children of migrant or seasonal workers who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in the first three categories.

Who do I notify, if I suspect a student is homeless?

If you suspect a student is homeless, notify your assistant principal. The assistant principal will notify Emily Bainter, Mississinewa's ESSA POC. Emily, the assistant principal, and/or the home school coordinator will communicate with the student and parents.

What can we provide for homeless students?

- Free breakfast and lunch; Boomerang Backpacks (weekend food); school supplies; connecting families with Red Cross (shelter, food, clothing, supplies); connecting families with food pantries at local churches; helping families sign up for Medicaid; bus transportation; helping families sign up for food stamps; offer hygiene supplies and cleaning supplies (items not covered by food stamps); offer laundry facilities; offer bathroom/shower facilities before and after school with hygiene supplies; clothing
- Before families qualify for Medicaid: monetary support for glasses, dental care, doctor appointments, and prescription refills
- Help students, who have been kicked out of their homes, find housing with family members or foster care