

Lowell Public Schools

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LOWELL

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Overview of McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Under ESSA

Office for the Education of Homeless
Children and Youth
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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION



The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless students as students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship, loss of housing or a similar reason.

The McKinney-Vento Act outlines the following dwelling arrangements for students that are homeless:

- **Doubled-up** - The student is sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship.
- **Hotels/Motels** - The student is living in a hotel or motel.
- **Shelter** – The student is living in a shelter.
- **Unsheltered** – The student is living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a campground, a home with no running water or electricity, a car, etc.
- **Unaccompanied Youth** – Are **youth** who are not in the physical custody of a parent or court-appointed guardian, including:
 - Young people who have run away from home
 - Young people who have been forced to leave their homes
 - Young people whose parents have left the area and left the student here.

School of Origin:

The school the child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool. The child is entitled to remain in the school of origin even if the family moves out of district. Since there are guidelines for this out of district move, you must speak to a McKinney-Vento Family Specialist for more information.

When a child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.



TRANSPORTATION

Homeless students have the right to remain enrolled in their **school of origin**.

School of Origin is defined as the specific **school** building in a **school** district that the student attended when permanently housed or the **school** in which the student was last enrolled before becoming homeless.

Thus, the student must receive transportation or immediately enroll in the school district where they are temporarily residing. This is to be discussed between the Parent and the McKinney-Vento Family Specialist depending how far away the child is residing.



Barriers to Housing

Families and students often struggle to find affordable housing. Additional barriers may also complicate the situation and leave families/student homeless longer than expected. Such barriers include, but are not limited to a prior eviction, utility arrearages, poor credit, bankruptcy, CORI/SORI issues, children or number of children, immigration documentation, and language. Homeless liaisons should refer families with barriers to local housing advocates and attorneys when appropriate.

Speak to the McKinney-Vento Specialists for Guidance.

Or Call:

211 for Emergency Housing Information

A national moratorium still protects some tenants

After October 18, the Massachusetts law that protects tenants from eviction during the pandemic no longer protects you. Landlords can begin evictions again. To Learn more, you can:

Use the LINK below or call CTI for more information on how to receive help if you are faced with owing back rent: USE the LINK below to see what is being offered for COVID 19 assistance concerning :

Eviction and Back Rent.

<https://www.commteam.org/>

EMERGENCY RENT AND

MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

DURING COVID (RAFT, ERMA)

The Massachusetts Eviction Moratorium:

CTI Resource Center and HCEC:

(for all general emergency referrals)

**FOR EVICTION INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS
ABOUT BACK RENT CALL:**

CTI EMERGENCY NUMBER

978.654.5607

EMERGENCY HOUSING

CALL 211

See Below for Emergency Assistance:

Fuel Assistance and Heating System Repair (Please note: As long as the State of Emergency is in effect the Department of Public Utilities has extended the moratorium that all utilities must follow the “no shut off” rule.)	978.459.6161	FuelAssistance@commteam.org
WIC	978.454.6397	WICCovidResponseCTI@commteam.org
Rental Assistance (Section 8 & MRVP)	978.654.5726	CTIRentalAssistance@commteam.org
Youth Services	978.905.7385	CTIYouthServices@commteam.org
Child and Family Services	978.454.5100	ChildcareCovidCTI@commteam.org
Entrepreneurship Center	978.654.5731	Business@commteam.org

EBT Eligibility/COVID Pandemic

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt>

P-EBT is a federal program. The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), received approval to operate this program in response to the COVID-19 related school closures.

P-EBT provides food supports to help families with children who were receiving free and reduced-price school meals pay for food.

If you are not receiving EBT Call the number below and see if you qualify.



FOR EBT ASSISTANCE:

Call EBT Customer Service 24 Hours a day.

1-800-997-2555

How do I check my balance?

You can call (800) 997-2555 (the number on the back of your P-EBT card) to check your balance.

We encourage all parents/guardians to get involved with LOWELL'S City Public Schools.

Families are our closest partners in helping our students to thrive.

We are here to assist you and support you in all your needs. We hope this guidance has provided you information. We are ensuring that you and your children have all the information necessary to access public education and all the opportunities available to succeed in school.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU:

REBECCA DUDA

NANCY HUMPHREY

JEANNE MAGUIRE

