

# McKinney-Vento Information for Families and Youth

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Amelia Lyons

McKinney-Vento State Coordinator

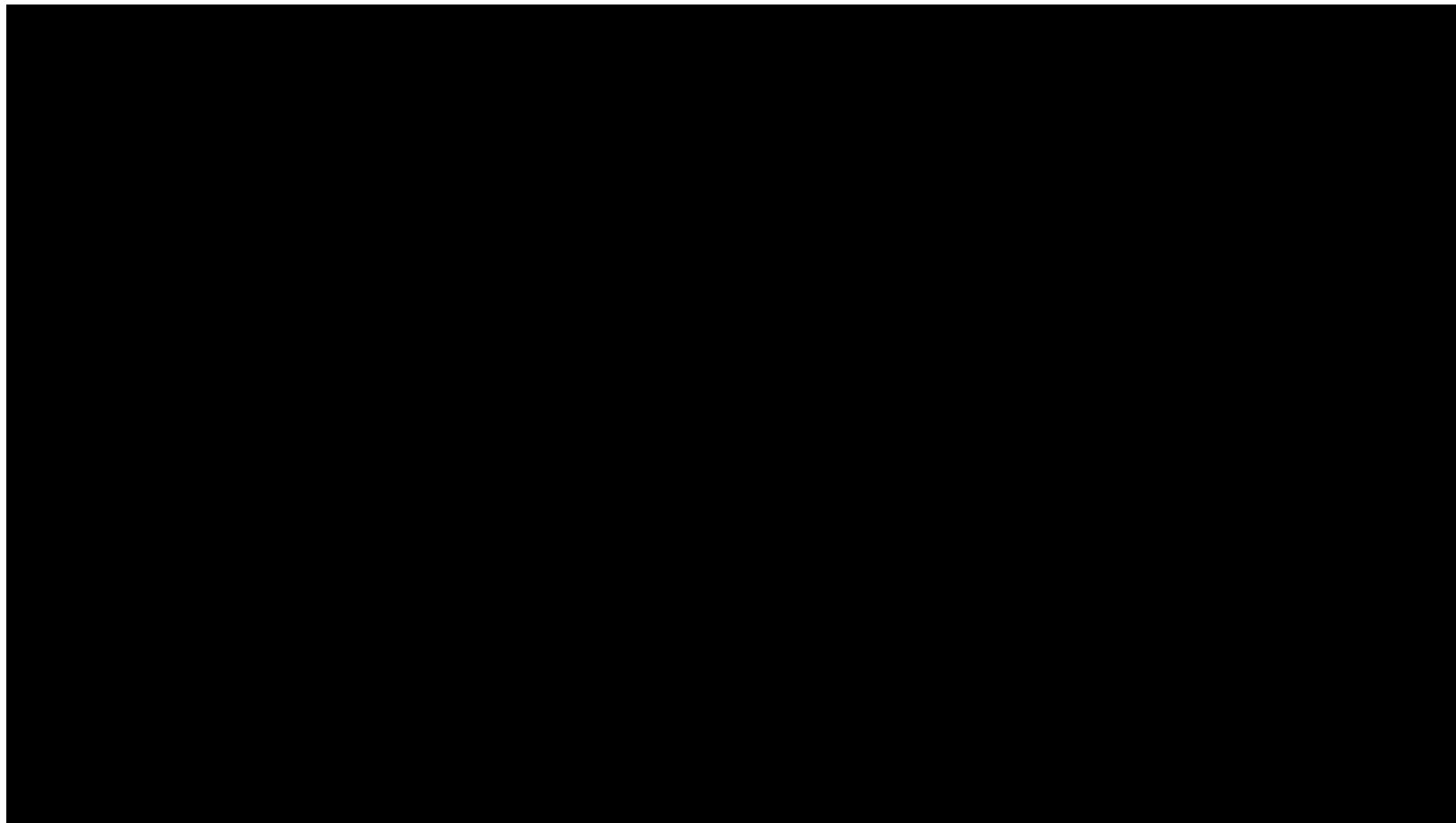
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Video from Elmo (1 min)



# If you are a Parent/Caregiver

- If you are staying temporarily with someone else because you lost your housing, or staying in a motel, campground, shelter, or in an outside or inadequate place, you and your children have special rights at school. These include:
  - Keeping your children in the same school even if you move, and receiving transportation to that school, as long as it is in the student's best interest;
  - Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually require;
  - Receiving free school meals;
  - Getting help with school supplies and other needs;
  - Receiving extra support for youth who are on their own;
  - Connecting young children with early childhood services;
- **Your school district must uphold these rights under the law. Connect with the local McKinney-Vento education liaison in your school district to receive help. [Click Here to Find the Contact Information of Your Local Education Liaison](#)**

*\*Note: this contact information may change frequently due to staff turnover. If you have problems finding the right school district homeless liaison, please contact Amelia Lyons, State McKinney-Vento Coordinator, at 207-557-1787 or [amelia.lyons@maine.gov](mailto:amelia.lyons@maine.gov)*



# If you are a Parent/Caregiver

- **If you are pregnant and/or have young children experiencing homelessness**, a program called Head Start may be able to help. Children experiencing homelessness are eligible for Head Start (preschool for three and four year olds) and Early Head Start (infants and toddlers). These programs must locate and recruit children experiencing homelessness, and prioritize them for enrollment. Homeless children can start attending without proof of age or immunizations. The best way to find local programs is to contact your [Head Start State Collaboration Office](#). You also can look through this directory of [local programs](#).
- **Get resources and activities for your children** from [Sesame Street in Communities](#), including tips for [how to talk to your child about homelessness](#) and [how to create a feeling of home](#) even if you are moving around a lot.
- **If you find yourself in a dangerous situation**, or in need of medical, emotional, or physical support, please see [this list of national hotlines](#) that provide an array of services. All hotlines listed are national hotlines providing 24/7 support across the United States.





# If you are a Youth/Student

- If you are staying temporarily with someone else because you had to leave your home, or staying in a motel, campground, shelter, or in an outside or inadequate place, you have special rights at school — **even if you are not staying with a parent or a guardian.**
- Those rights include:
  - Staying in the same school even if you move, and receiving transportation to that school, as long as it is in your best interest
  - Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually require, and without a parent or guardian
  - Receiving free school meals
  - Getting help with school supplies, including what is needed to participate in distance learning and other needs
- **To get help, contact your school district's local McKinney-Vento education liaison** to find out if you qualify for help, or ask a counselor, teacher, or other trusted adult to connect you to the liaison. [Click Here to Find the Contact Information of Your Local McKinney-Vento Education Liaison](#)

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# If you are a Youth/Student

- Find [resources written by students, for students](#), that are designed to help you succeed in K-12, higher education, and life. Resources address topics such as understanding homeless definitions, getting help with financial aid (including COVID-19 relief), accessing child care, reviewing a lease, choosing and buying a cell phone plan, and more.
- If you find yourself in a dangerous situation, or in need of medical, emotional, or physical support, please see [this list of national hotlines](#) that provide an array of services. All hotlines listed are national hotlines providing 24/7 support across the United States.



If you have  
questions

- Reach out to your local district McKinney-Vento liaison or Amelia Lyons, State McKinney Vento Coordinator, at 207-557-1787 or [amelia.lyons@maine.gov](mailto:amelia.lyons@maine.gov)