

Determining Feasibility of School Placement

The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to consider the school of origin as the first option in school enrollment. Parents may choose the school of origin or the school in the residency area where the child is currently living. The following individuals may be consulted in determining what placement is in the child's or youth's best interest:

- The homeless child
- The parents or caretakers of the homeless child
- Homeless shelter personnel
- Representatives of social service agencies
- School district homeless education coordinators
- School social workers
- School counselors

It is the school district's responsibility to determine the school of origin and residency and to resolve any conflict concerning the school placement that is in the best interest of the student. Whenever possible, the school district is to comply with the parents'/caretakers' wishes. If the school district and parents do not agree on the appropriate placement, the state's enrollment dispute resolution procedure must be followed. The student should be enrolled in the school parents have chosen during the resolution process. If schools of residency and origin are in different districts and determined as the best placement, the local homeless education liaisons from both districts must work together to arrange transportation.

The McKinney-Vento Act states that once a child has been identified as homeless, residency requirements do not apply. The federal law requires that a child or youth experiencing homelessness attend one of the following:

- The *school of origin*: The school that the child last attended before experiencing homelessness or the school where the student was last enrolled.
- The *school of residency*: The school identified by the attendance zone in which the student is currently physically staying.

Enrollment should take place immediately.

A form is provided to assist in determining feasibility of school placement and that placement decisions are in student's best interest.

Adapted from materials developed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



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Date: _____

Please provide the following information for the schools the child previously attended. List the most recent school first.

Dates of attendance	School name/ district/state	Living arrangement at the time

1. Are the school of origin and the school of residency in the same public school district or in different districts?
2. What is the child's desire concerning the school of his/her best interest?
3. What is the opinion of the parent or caregiver concerning the child's school of best interest?
4. What is the distance and time spent on travel from the current residence to the school of origin?
5. If transportation is not currently available back to the school of origin, how can it be arranged?
6. What time of year is it (near the end of the school year, the summer)?
7. How long did the child attend the school of origin? Were meaningful social and educational relationships established?
8. Are there specified people in the school of origin who have been providing support or assistance to the family or child experiencing homelessness?

9. Are there special programs, such as gifted, bilingual, or remedial education, in which the child has been participating at the school of origin?
 - If yes, please name.
 - Are they available at the school of residency?
10. Based on knowledge of the family situation, how long is the family likely to remain at the current residence?
11. What is the likelihood that the family experiencing homelessness will once again establish residency in the attendance area of the school of origin?

Recommendation:

Individuals consulted to determine the feasibility of school placement and that the placement is in the student's best interest:

Signature(s) of the individual(s) making the recommendation:

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