

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

RSU 16 follows the provisions of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which aims to minimize the educational disruptions experienced by homeless students.

Under McKinney-Vento, homeless students are guaranteed the right to a free, appropriate, public education, and they have the right to enroll in a public school even if they lack the typically required documents and immunizations. When students become homeless, they can remain enrolled in the schools they have been attending even though they might no longer meet residency requirements. In addition, homeless students are guaranteed the transportation they need to attend school.

### ***Who is considered homeless?***

According to McKinney-Vento, '*homeless*' can be defined as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate housing
- Living in emergency or transitional housing
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Awaiting foster care
- Having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory students meeting the descriptions above

## ***Resources***

- **RSU 16 McKinney Vento Liaison**  
Jenny Rose, Adult Education Director  
(207) 740-0417 with confidential voicemail, or email [jrose@rsu16.org](mailto:jrose@rsu16.org)

Every school district in Maine is required to have a McKinney-Vento Liaison who is responsible for ensuring the identification, school enrollment, attendance and opportunities for academic success of students in homeless situations. Other Liaisons may be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/doe/homeless/database/index.html>

- **List of Emergency Shelters in Maine**  
<http://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/homeless/emergency-shelters>
- **Parent Booklet**  
A resource to help you support your child's education during times of mobility.  
[http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/parent\\_booklet.php](http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/parent_booklet.php)

- **2-1-1 MAINE**  
 This is a statewide directory of over 8,000 health and human services available in Maine. The toll free 2-1-1 hotline connects callers to trained call specialists who can help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dial 2-1-1 or visiting <http://www.211maine.org/>
- **Community Health and Counseling**  
 Adult, Child & Family Services  
 24 Lewiston Road, Mechanic Falls  
 207-345-9113  
[http://www.chcs-me.org/feed.php?num=10&news\\_id=40&feed\\_id=16](http://www.chcs-me.org/feed.php?num=10&news_id=40&feed_id=16)
- **NAMI Maine**  
 National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maine  
 Help line: 800-464-5767  
<http://www.namimaine.org/>
- **Maine Mental Health Crisis Hotline**  
 24/7 assistance to connect to your closest crisis center for professional guidance, follow-up care and support.  
 Hotline: 888-568-1112
- **State McKinney-Vento Coordinator**  
 Jacinda Goodwin  
 Truancy, Dropout, Alternative Education and McKinney-Vento State Coordinator at  
 Maine Department of Education  
 207-624-6637  
[jacinda.goodwin@maine.gov](mailto:jacinda.goodwin@maine.gov)  
[www.maine.gov/education/homeless\\_ed/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/education/homeless_ed/index.htm)