



Gonzales Independent School District

Homeless Education Best Practices Qualification for McKinney-Vento Services 2015-2016

The **McKinney-Vento Program** assists students experiencing homelessness to enroll in school and have access to academic supplies and services to participate and attend school daily.

Who we serve

* Homeless students	* Students living with family members or friends (doubled-up) due to economic hardship or loss of housing
* Student living in temporary homes due to economic hardship (shelters, hotels, RVs, etc.)	* Unaccompanied youth

Services

* School Enrollment assistance	* School supplies
* School transportation	* Community services
* Free lunch program	* School of Origin

What is the definition of a homeless child?

According to federal law (McKinney-Vento Sec. 725), and the TEA state plan for homeless children/youth, who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. This includes children and youth who sleep at night:

* In a shelter (including runaway youth shelters and domestic violence shelters).	* In a motel, hotel, trailer parks, or camping grounds, bus or train stations,
* In a shelter awaiting institutionalization, adoption, foster care, or other placement.	* In someone else's home, due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason,
* Migrant students who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above	* In transitional, temporary housing (i.e., rent paid by local service providers),
* In a car, tent, an abandoned building, or other place, public or private, not ordinarily used as a sleeping accommodation for human beings.	

More information is available on the THEO (The Texas Homeless Education Office) website and you may also access updated information about the McKinney Vento Laws, and serving homeless students at NEAHCY (National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth). Please follow the link page. <http://www.theotx.org//>

Gonzales ISD Identification Process:

Student Residency Questionnaires (SRQs) are included in every student's registration packet.

- Parents/Legal Guardians complete / return the SRQ to the campus office with other registration paperwork.
- The registrars on each campus forward the SRQs to the **Homeless Liaison (Director of Federal Programs, Special Populations, & Community Affairs)** at the GISD Central Office Annex.
- The **Homeless Liaison** reviews all SRQs and determines student qualification for **McKinney-Vento Services**.
 - The Homeless Liaison may make home visits when additional identification information is required.

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Gonzales ISD Enrollment:

Once the **Homeless Liaison** reviews and determines that a student qualifies for services under the **McKinney-Vento Act**, the SRQ is sent to the PEIMS (Public Education Information Management System) Coordinator to be entered into TxEIS (Texas Enterprise Information System).

- The **Federal McKinney-Vento Act and Texas State Law** guarantee that a student can enroll in school if he/she has been identified as homeless.
 - Even if residence or housing is uncertain
 - Even if lack of a permanent physical address
 - Even if living at a temporary address

Local Community Involvement:

First Baptist Church of Gonzales Crisis Assistance – this benevolence ministry directly provides financial help for basic necessities such as: rent, utilities, food, etc.

First United Methodist Church of Gonzales – this benevolence ministry directly provides financial help for basic necessities such as: rent, utilities, food, etc.

Gonzales Christian Assistance Ministry (GCAM) – this ecumenical ministry to the needy in Gonzales through finances and physical goods (food, clothing, etc.)

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