

Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility of Unaccompanied Youth

1. Is the student residing with someone who is not his/her parent or court appointed guardian?

If yes, continue to the next question. If no, the student may be homeless, but is not unaccompanied.

2. Does the student meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento?

These are sample questions that can be asked to determine McKinney-Vento eligibility. Reminder: *homeless* is defined as "lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

- Why is the student living with someone who is not his/her parent/guardian?
- Is the student placed in this residence as a temporary plan for housing because the entire family became homeless?
- Did the student leave home because of severe family conflict?
- How long can the student continue living where he or she is?
- Does the student have his or her own space/bedroom in the residence?
- Does the student have adequate privacy?
- Can the student come and go as needed?
- Where would the student live if not able to live there?
- What are the expectations of the student while staying there?

A student who is considered homeless (lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence) and unaccompanied (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) can be registered as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

A student who is not homeless, even though residing with a person other than the parent or court-appointed guardian, does not qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Based on a flowchart provided by Virginia Beach Public Schools