



Butts County School System

McKinney Vento Act/Homeless Students



Homeless Liaison Contact Information
Susan Sarsany, School Social Worker
181 North Mulberry, Jackson, GA 30233
770-504-2300
sarsanys@bcssk12.org

What is the McKinney- Vento Act?

- The McKinney-Vento Act is a law passed in 1987 and re-authorized in 2015 under Every Child Succeeds Act. The McKinney-Vento Act removes barriers so homeless children can access education and vital services.

How does the law Define homelessness?

- An individual is “homeless” who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition of homelessness includes those living in shelters, motels, campgrounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or other inadequate shelter. The law also includes situations in which an individual shares housing with relatives or others because he or she has lost housing or cannot afford housing due to economic hardship.

What are my child's rights under the McKinney-Vento Act?

A child considered homeless under the law has:

- The right to immediate enrollment in school without having health and school records available;
- The right to attend either the school of origin or the school in the attendance area where the family currently resides;
- The right to receive transportation to school of origin when feasible and in the best interest of the child, if requested by parent/guardian;
- The right to access comparable services, including educational services, supplemental services, and extra-curricular activities.
- The right to claim these services for the remainder of the current school year.

If my child and I become homeless during the school year what should I do?

- Ask to speak to your child’s counselor or the system social worker.

Who can I call if I need assistance?

- Contact the Homeless Liaison listed on the front cover.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school;

- The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.
- A dispute will be referred to the Homeless Liaison for resolution. The Homeless Liaison will follow up with parent in writing regarding a decision.
- If the matter is not resolved, parent/guardian will need to file a letter disputing the decision with the Superintendent of schools. Superintendent will follow up with parent/guardian within 10 days with a decision.
- If the parent/guardian does not agree with the decision of the Superintendent, they must immediately appeal the decision in writing to the Georgia Department of Education for a final determination. Contact Erica Glenn, Consultant with the Georgia Dept. of Education at 404-295-4705

The McKinney-Vento program, through the Butts County School System, will help you access programs and services on the school site to optimize your child’s educational opportunities. We will help you with school supplies, enrollment in programs, assistance with transportation for your child, and help you find community resources.



Resources for Homeless Families

- ◆ Jackson Housing Authority: 160 Carter Ave, Jackson, GA 770-775-5559
- ◆ Salvation Army: 178 North Benton, Jackson, GA 770-775-2940
- ◆ United Way 211: Dial 211 or 404-614-1000
- ◆ DFACS: 178 Ernest Biles Drive, Jackson, GA 1-877-423-4746
- ◆ Butts County Pregnancy Resource Center: 153 Dempsey Ave, Jackson, GA 770-775-5116
- ◆ Butts County Health Department:: 463 Ernest Biles Drive, Jackson, GA
- ◆ Butts County Medical Center: 176 Lyons St., Jackson, GA 404-688-1350
- ◆ CERF—Christian Emergency Relief Fund: 307 East 3rd St., Jackson, GA 770-504-9013
- ◆ Butts County Counseling Center: 463 Ernest Biles Drive, Jackson, GA 770-358-5252
- ◆ Haven House (Domestic Violence): 770-954-9229