

Defining Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;

Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations;

Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters;

Children and youth abandoned in hospitals;

Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc);

Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations;

Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations.

The McKinney-Vento Liaison or designee will determine whether a student qualifies for support through, self identification, referral or the OSD Student Housing Questionnaire.

McKinney-Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. The Olympia School District McKinney-Vento program is designed to assist homeless, at-risk students and their families within the Olympia School District. The program strives to ensure that students experiencing homelessness are able to enroll as quickly as possible, and that they have the same access to educational opportunities as non-McKinney-Vento students. The McKinney-Vento office supports every school in the Olympia School District.

Contact Information

**OSD McKinney-Vento
Program Support Specialists**

(Main contacts for assistance and supports)

Leslie Gowell

**McKinney Vento Support Specialist
Liaison Designee**

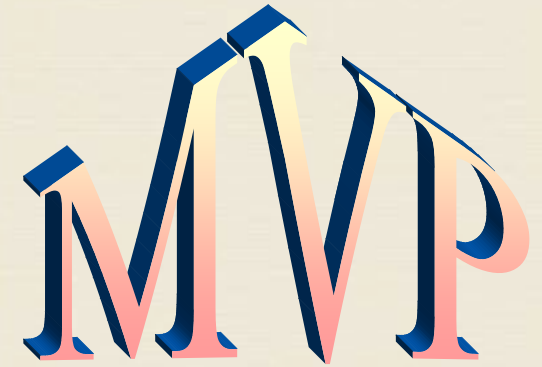
lgowell@osd.wednet.edu 360-596-6313

Domenico Spatola-Knoll

District Liaison & Program Administrator
dsknoll@osd.wednet.edu

OSD McKinney-Vento Office 1113
Legion Way SE Olympia, WA 98501

McKinney- Vento Program



**Olympia School
District**

**"Removing Barriers to
Educational
Opportunities"**

OSD McKinney-Vento Office
1113 Legion Way SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Rights of Students Identified as Homeless

Once identified as McKinney-Vento eligible you have the right to register your child (student) at school even if you do not have full documentation (such as immunization records, utility bill, birth certificate, etc.,) at the time of enrollment;

Once registered, your student is eligible for immediate enrollment;

If it is in their best interest, students who are eligible for services have the right to retain school of origin for the duration of their homelessness or until the end of the school year if they find permanent housing;

Depending on the individual circumstances, your student(s) will be provided with transportation to and from with school buses, city bus passes, or gas vouchers;

Your student(s) are entitled to free lunch and breakfast without the need to fill out the form;

Your student must not be isolated or stigmatized;

As noted above, students are eligible for services for the duration of homelessness or the end of the school year if they attain permanent housing;

Each school district must have a McKinney-Vento liaison. See contact information on the back of this brochure

Partial List of Community Resources

- **Thurston County Food Bank**
220 Thurston Ave. NE,
Olympia 360-352-8597
M/W/F 11:00 -3:00pm
- **Community Kitchen (located at Salvation Army Shelter)**
808 5th Ave. SE,
Olympia 360-349-2808
Lunch 11am to 12:30pm
Dinner 5 to 6:30pm
- **Olympia Union Gospel Mission**
413 Franklin St. NE
Olympia +1.360.709.9725
- **Weekend Food Backpack Program**
Please contact your school counselor for eligibility and participation questions.
- **Shoe Bank**
The Masonic Temple has a shoe giveaway program. For a needs-based shoe voucher, please contact your school counselor.
- **YWCA Other Bank (Personal Hygiene Supplies)**
220 Union Ave. SE, Olympia
+1.360.352.0593
Wednesdays 1-3:30pm
- **Community Youth Services Rosie's Place (Homeless Teen Drop In Center)**
360-711 State St. NE, Olympia
+1.360.943.0780 x130
- **Family Support Center**
108 State St. SE, Olympia
+1.360.754.9297
- **Salvation Army Shelter**
808 5th Ave. SE, Olympia
+1.360.352.8596
- **Safeplace**
Domestic Violence Shelter
+1.360.754.6300
- **Emergency Shelter Network**
Overnight shelter/ Family Support
108 State St. SE, Olympia
+1.360.528.8999
- **2-1-1**
This is a useful telephone number that provides information on resources and services in the community.
- **The Family Support Network Community.** The Family Support Network can be reached by calling +1.360.528.8999.
- **Your School Counselor/Principal**
Your school counselor or principal can sometimes help struggling families with access to resources.