

Did you know?

Homelessness goes by many names—staying with family, doubling up, in transition—and deeply affects students’ ability to learn. More than six percent of children in Cleveland experience homelessness in a given year. This included 2,442 students just among district schools for the 2018-2019 school year.



Supporting youth and families in transition

Project ACT provides instructional and support services to students in preschool through grade 12 who are in temporary living situations.

They offer a holistic and comprehensive approach to ensure students have access to education and can fully participate in school, including:

- Removing barriers that would limit a student’s ability to fully engage and participate in school activities and events.
- Partnering with families to identify and meet student’s physical, social, and emotional needs.
- Empowering parents to support their children.

You can register your child with Project ACT at the district office, 1111 Superior Ave; the corner of 12th and Superior. They are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. to register your child. Call 216-838-0210 for more information on how you can help students navigate these transitions.

Students in temporary living situations

Students in temporary living situations face significant barriers to educational success and benefit from the stability that a secure school placement can provide. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that grants important educational rights to students in temporary living situations.

A student is protected under McKinney-Vento if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children and youth who are:

- Staying in a shelter, including emergency/transitional shelters, domestic violence shelters, and runaway and homeless youth shelters.
- Doubled-up with a friend, relative or someone else because their family lost their home due to eviction, foreclosure, natural disaster, or economic reasons; or staying in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground because they have nowhere else to go.
- Staying in housing that is substandard or lacks full utilities.
- Living in places not ordinarily used for sleeping, including cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, or bus or train stations.
- Abandoned in a hospital.
- Unaccompanied youth, not living at home. This includes children and youth who:
 - Were asked to leave home or locked out by a parent/legal guardian,
 - Left home without consent of parents (runaways), or
 - Are living doubled-up without a legal guardian due to economic reasons or lack formal custody papers while their parents may be incarcerated, hospitalized, or in a rehabilitation center.

Know Your Rights

Students in temporary housing have a right under the McKinney-Vento Act to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment, or having missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- Attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Continue attending the school of origin, or enroll in a different school where space is available, at the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.
- Receive transportation to and from school.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to students in permanent housing.
- The right to a written explanation if your child is assigned to a school other than the school of your choice, and the right to appeal that decision.