

***Nenana City School District***  
***PO Box 10 Nenana, AK 99760***  
***Phone: (907) 832-5464***  
***“A Community of Opportunity – Preparing Students for Life”***

To: Nenana City School District Administrators, Teachers and Staff  
From: Eric Gebhart, Superintendent

**Re: Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

Title X-C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, includes requirements for all districts to identify and serve children and youth experiencing homelessness so that these children have access to the same free appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth in the state. Some funding is available to award competitive grants to districts that meet eligibility requirements based on the number of homeless children and youth identified in the district. The Nenana City School District does not meet the eligibility requirements to seek these funds. **Statewide Toll Free Number: 1-877-854-5437**

**Definition:** Under the McKinney Vento Act, a child is homeless if he/she does not have a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence.

**Examples of Homeless Situations** (as defined in the McKinney Vento Act)

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. Commonly called **doubling-up**.
2. Children and youth living in **motels, hotels, or camping grounds** due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Children and youth living **in emergency or transitional shelters, abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement**.
4. Children and youths who are living **in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings**.
5. **Unaccompanied youths or runaways**. Children in this situation can be described as **couch surfers**, chronically spending a few nights at one friend’s home then moving on to another.

**School District Title X Responsibilities**

According to the McKinney-Vento Law, each school district must:

1. **Immediately enroll homeless students** in the regular school program despite the lack of transcripts, immunization records, and other documentation.
2. **Provide transportation** to homeless students so that they can remain in their school of origin.
3. **Supply materials** homeless students need to participate in the regular school program and activities.
4. **Enroll homeless students in free and reduced breakfast and lunch program.**

“providing all students with the tools and learning environment necessary to commit to achieving success”

***Nenana City School District***  
***PO Box 10 Nenana, AK 99760***  
***Phone: (907) 832-5464***  
***“A Community of Opportunity – Preparing Students for Life”***

**5. Identify a Homeless Liaison, who:**

- a. **Connects** homeless families with available community resources.
- b. **Assists** the family or youth efforts to gather documentation typically needed for school and to connect with public health as needed.
- c. **Facilitates** the establishment, maintenance, acquisition, and transfer of academic and immunization records for homeless students.
- d. **Coordinates the training** of school staff on issues surrounding the education of homeless students and the McKinney-Vento Law.

**Alaska Department of Education & Early Development** has a web-site that provides additional information regarding Homeless students: [education.alaska.gov/ESEA/TitleX-C/](http://education.alaska.gov/ESEA/TitleX-C/)

**Policy and Practice of the Nenana City School District:** The Nenana City School District will ensure that homelessness will not be a barrier to participation in the full range of educational opportunities available to students throughout our District schools and programs.

For questions, or to report a homeless student in need of services, please contact:

**District Homeless Liaison:**

Eric Gebhart, Superintendent  
PO Box 10  
Nenana, AK, 99760  
Phone: (907) 8323-5464

“providing all students with the tools and learning environment necessary to commit to achieving success”