

# Illinois HB261: Homeless Student Bill

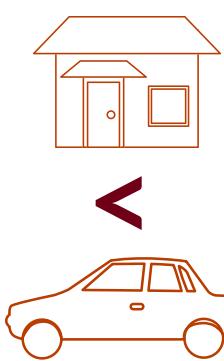
The McKinney-Vento Act mandates homeless students receive transportation to their school of origin. HB261, the Homeless Student Bill, allows schools in Illinois to save money by providing housing assistance to homeless students and their families near their school of origin instead of providing transportation after they become homeless.

Keep students housed. Achieve student success. Save taxpayer money. Invest in our community.

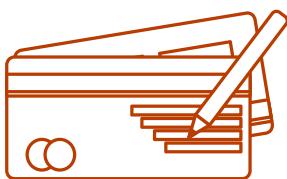


McKinney-  
Vento  
Liaison

**Identifies  
Eligible  
Students**

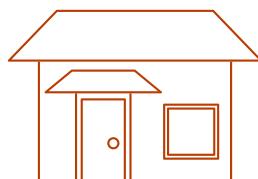


Housing assistance is  
less than cost of  
transportation to  
school of origin\*



School  
District MV  
Fund

**Provides  
Financial  
Assistance**



Homeless  
Service  
Agency

**Locates  
Housing and  
Offers Services**

\*If the cost to keep McKinney-Vento eligible students in their current housing is more than the cost of transportation to school of origin, transportation funds will be provided in accordance with McKinney-Vento Act.

Last school year, McKinney-Vento Liaisons across Suburban Cook County identified

**6,766**  
students in families

and

**304**  
unaccompanied students

experiencing literal homelessness or living in a doubled-up situation.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How does homelessness impact students?** According to the Institute for Children and Poverty, homeless children are nine times more likely to repeat a grade, four times more likely to drop out of school, and three times more likely to be placed in special education programs than their housed peers.

**What do I do when a student or family tells me they are homeless?** Anyone that does not have fixed, regular, or adequate housing should be referred to the McKinney-Vento Liaison. It is not up to the staff who identifies the family to determine eligibility for McKinney- Vento.

**How do I support students and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness?** Every family should be referred to Coordinated Entry (877-426-6515, [www.myentrypoint.org](http://www.myentrypoint.org)) or your designated housing agency. Every student who is 17 or younger should be referred to the CCBYS Hotline (877-870-2663) or your local CCBYS provider.

**Who is a good fit for the HB261 Homeless Prevention Program?** Everyone who is experiencing homelessness or is at risk of homelessness is a good fit. Not everyone will receive assistance through HB261, but they could all receive assistance through the designated housing agency or other community partners.

**Is the school district responsible for finding housing?** No. Refer families to service providers. They are the experts and will find the appropriate resources. The HB261 legislation does not require demonstration that the family will become housing stable with the available funding. The designated housing agency and the family can create a plan and determine what is in the best interest of the family.

**Does the school district pay the family directly?** No. The school district provides the agreed upon payment to the designated housing agency who then provides assistance to the family.

**How long can the family receive assistance?** The HB261 legislation does not place a limit on how long a family can be served. It is determined by the housing plan created by the designated housing agency and the family, and based on the amount of funds that are available from the transportation cost analysis.

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