



## Homelessness & Foster Care Policy

Great Oaks Charter School adheres to the provisions of the Federal [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) which aims to minimize the educational disruptions experienced by students who are experiencing homelessness or who are placed in foster care. According to the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, "homeless children and youth" is defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth:

- Sharing housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations; and
- Migratory children living in circumstances described above.

The following [potential warning signs](#) may indicate homelessness:

- Lack of continuity in education
- Poor health/nutrition
- Transportation and attendance problems
- Poor hygiene
- Lack of privacy/personal space after school
- Social and behavioral concerns
- Reactions/statements by parent, guardian or child

Under the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, students experiencing homelessness or who students are placed in foster care are guaranteed the right to a free, appropriate, public education. When students experience homelessness, they can remain enrolled in the schools they have been attending, although they might no longer meet residency requirements. McKinney-Vento also guarantees students experiencing homelessness the right to enroll in a public school even if they lack the typically required documents and immunizations. In addition, students experiencing homelessness are guaranteed the transportation they need to attend school. If your family is experiencing any of the above concerns, please contact our School's Liaison(s):

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