

Identifying Homeless Students in Doubled Up Situations

*Adapted from National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
"Determining Eligibility for Rights and Services Under McKinney Vento Act"*

1. Get the facts. What is the family's or youth situation?
 - Use a standard enrollment form that asks about the family's living situation to gather initial information.
2. Analyze the facts. Is the student eligible for McKinney Vento Services?
 - To be eligible, the student must meet the Act's definition of homeless.
 - Defines "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Does the child's living situation fit one of the specific examples of homelessness listed in the law?

●Shelter ●Motel ●Transitional Housing ●Awaiting Foster Care ●Doubled Up ●Car ●Park/Public Space

Doubled Up is defined as "Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, or economic hardship."

A. Sharing the housing of another person

- Did the student move into the home as an urgent measure to avoid being on the street?
- Is the situation temporary?

McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions

B. Due to loss of housing

- An eviction
- Had to leave due to domestic violence, infestations, inadequate physical environment (no utilities)
- Destruction of home (house fire, flood, natural disaster)
- Absence of parent/guardian due to abandonment (incarceration)

McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions

C. Economic Hardship: The way that shared housing came about and intention is very significant

- Limited resources forced families to leave their personal housing to share housing due to inability to pay
- Such as an accident, illness, loss of employment or benefits forces families to share housing temporarily

McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions

A long-term, cooperative living arrangement among family or friends should not be considered a homeless situation, even if the parties live together to save money.

Sample Questions to ask:

- Why are you staying at the current place?—If they mention anything from A, B, C category, they are eligible
- Are you on the lease? If the answer is no—they are eligible
- Are you sharing the home equally or are you guests?—If guest, they are eligible
- Is this a temporary situation?—If yes, they are eligible
- Could your friends/relatives ask you to leave if they wanted to?—If yes, they are eligible

Indicators a family may be homeless

- Move around a lot
- Excessive absences and tardies
- Outdated, incorrect contact information
- Reluctant to share personal information

Adapted 8/25/2015