What questions should I ask about services under the McKinney-Vento Act?

- What transportation is available for my child to stay in the same school (the school of origin)?
- If my child changes schools, who can help us transfer records to the new school quickly?
- How can my child receive free meals at school?
- How can my child receive free school supplies, if needed?
- Who can help if my child needs special education services? How quickly can these services be set up?
- What academic help is available for my child, such as Title I programs or after-school tutoring?
- What programs can help develop my child's talents and address his/her unique needs?
- Are there sports, music, or other activities available for my child?
- How can my child go on class field trips or participate in other school activities if I can't pay for them?
- Is there a preschool program for my younger children?

What if the school and I disagree about where my child should go to school?

If you and the school disagree, the school district must tell you in writing why it thinks your child should go to a different school than the one you want. The district also has to tell you in writing how you can appeal this decision. Your child can still enroll in, attend, and participate fully in the school you think is best for him or her while the disagreement is being settled.

Walla Walla School District Homeless Liaison:

Pam Clayton — 509-526-6781

What can I do to help my child in school?

- Make sure your child goes to school every day and arrives rested and fed.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to do homework, and set aside time every day to help your child with homework.
- Pay attention to your child's health needs and take care of any problems early.
- Ask your child what he or she is learning in school. Have him or her explain it to you. If you show interest in your child's education, he or she will know that it's important.
- Read to your child every day. For older children, set aside time each day for you and your child to read together silently. Talk about what you read.
- Praise your child for what he or she does well, like getting a good grade or playing on a school sports team.
- Listen to what your child shares with you and talk about any problems he or she is having. You also can talk about these problems with a teacher or school counselor.
- Encourage your child to participate in things like sports and music.

Walla Walla Public Schools
Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

What You Need to Know About McKinney-Vento

A Guide for Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

If your family is in a temporary or inadequate living situation due to a loss of housing, your child might be eligible for certain educational rights and services.

Walla Walla Public Schools 364
South Park St.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

NCHE National Center for Homeless Education

Revised September 2020

Are You Homeless?

If your family lives

- in a shelter
- in a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- in a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- doubled-up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

your child might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Act.

McKinney-Vento Rights and Supports

Your McKinney-Vento eligible children have the right to

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers the needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending the school of origin (the school your child attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.*
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

**If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.*

Whom can I contact to help with my child's education?

- Contact the district's homeless education liaison, who can help you decide which school would be best for your child and communicate with the school. The Liaison also can help your child get school supplies, supplemental services, and free school meals; set up transportation to and from the school of origin; and help you find community supports.
- When you enroll your child in a new school, you should ask to meet his/her teacher(s). You should also talk to your child's teacher(s) periodically to discuss how your child is doing.
- The school counselor can help your child deal with changes and challenges. Share with this person any information about how your child is acting at home, or things he or she is dealing with that might affect school work.
- Other good people to know are the school principal, attendance officer, bus driver, intervention specialist, and school nurse.

Local Area Contacts:

Center for Children & Families: Jennifer Avina—509.526.1774

HeadStart: Christine Ludwig—509-526-1788

Berney: Jaclyn Melton— 509-526-8544

Edison: Yvonne Vinyard—509-526-1802

Green Park: Andraya Anderson—509-526-4516

Prospect Point: Ita Trejo—509-526-1744

Sharpstein: Monica Torres—509-526-1707

Garrison Middle School: Alex Escalante—509-526-1910

Pioneer Middle School: Oscar Brito—509-526-1974

Lincoln High School: Shelly Phipps—509-526-8514

Walla Walla High School: Magali Hernandez—509-526-8620

Opportunity: Mireya Vargas—509-526-2052

Walla Walla Online: Jason Knittel—509-526-2060

When I move, should I keep my child in the same school or transfer my child to the local school?

Moving from one school to another can be upsetting for children. They have to leave the friends and teachers they know and get used to new friends, teachers, and classes. Because of this, it is usually best for your child to stay in his/her same school (the school of origin), even if you move to a different area.

Here are some questions to think about when deciding whether your child should stay in the same school or move to the new school where you're living:

- How old is your child?
- How permanent is your current living arrangement? Do you plan to move back close to the school of origin or do you think you'll stay near your current living arrangement?
- Is your child attached to his/her school of origin? An older child who feels very connected to his/her school of origin and/or is about to graduate might have a harder time changing schools.
- How anxious is your child because you have had to move? Would changing schools be overwhelming?
- Would changing schools cause your child to fall behind in school and get bad grades?
- Is this a good time of year for your child to change schools, such as at the end of a semester or school year, after testing, or after an event that is important to your child?
- How much time would your child have to spend going back and forth to the school of origin? A long ride might have a negative impact on your child's schoolwork.
- Are there safety issues to think about in choosing which school your child should attend?