

Welcome to the McKinney-Vento Families in Transition

Welcome to the Belgrade Public Schools Homeless Education program. We are located in the Administration Office at 312 N. Weaver Street. Mark Halgren and Cindy Baker are the Homeless Liaisons for the Belgrade School District. The purpose of our program is to ensure that "each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education."

How do we determine if a child is homeless?

A child who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may be classified as homeless under the law known as the **McKinney-Vento Act 42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)**, which is also known as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act. A child's living situation must meet one of the following criteria:

- Public or Private Shelter (domestic violence, transitional housing, family or youth shelter, etc.)
- Shared housing (two or more families sharing housing because you cannot afford your own housing)
- Motel/hotel resident (because affordable housing is not available)
- Camping out in a tent or RV
- Unaccompanied youth (not living in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian and lacking a regular, fixed, nighttime residence)
 - Runaways
 - Children/youth denied housing by their families
 - School aged unwed mothers living in housing for unwed mothers
- Substandard housing (the home lacks electricity or running water)
- Living in a car, park, public place, bus station, abandoned building or a similar location

Students may be entitled to the following services under Title X of the ESEA:

- Students will be guaranteed the right to immediate enrollment while all records are obtained.
- Students qualify for free breakfast/lunch.
- Students may receive free transportation services from their temporary residence to the school in which they are enrolled.
- Students may stay in school enrolled for the remainder of the school year, even if living situation changes as long as it is in the best interest of the child.
- Students are eligible to receive additional tutoring through Title I.
- Students are guaranteed equal access to all programs including, but not limited to; Gifted Education, Indian Education, Title I and Special Education.
- Students are guaranteed equal access to extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to; student government, honor societies, clubs, bands, choir and athletics.

Helpful Links:

- [Montana Focus Homeless Schooling](#)
- [Directory of Community Resources, Bozeman MT](#)
- [Bozeman District Policy 3116: Education of Homeless Children](#)
- [OPI - Montana Office of Public Instruction Homeless Assistance](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [HRDC - Human Resource Development Council](#)
- [Thrive](#)
- [Gallatin Valley Food Bank](#)
- [Community Health Partners](#)
- [Family Promise](#)

If you are a parent/guardian or a student in need of assistance you may contact your building principal, or contact the District Homeless Liaisons Mark Halgren at 406.924.2008 mhalgren@belgradeschools.com and Cindy Baker at 406.924.2492 cbaker@belgradeschools.com.

If you are a parent/guardian or student with questions or concerns regarding the school placement of your child please feel free to contact the Liaisons office directly or download the [Dispute Resolution Form](#) and submit it to your child's school.

Sincerely,

Mark Halgren and Cindy Baker
Belgrade School District Homeless Liaisons