

## McKinney-Vento Act Requirements for Schools

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- ⇒ Schools must keep children in the school of origin (the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or where last enrolled) to the extent feasible, except where contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian.
- ⇒ Children or youth's right to attend their school of origin extends throughout the duration of living in transition.
- ⇒ Schools must remove any barriers that contribute to exclusion or enrollment delay. This means schools are required to enroll immediately students living in transition, and then follow up to retrieve missing information, school records, immunization records, etc.
- ⇒ Each school must post the contact information for the district's Families in Transition Program.
- ⇒ Each school must post public notice of educational rights of children and youth living in transition.
- ⇒ Schools must ensure enrollment with full and equal opportunity for students to succeed in schools, including participation in such school education, vocational and technical, Head Start, Even Start, preschool, etc.



### Local Area Contact:

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LCS Families in Transition Program  
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### F.I.T. Address:

725 S. Calhoun Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

### F.I.T. Website:

[http://www.leonschools.net/  
Domain/316](http://www.leonschools.net/Domain/316)

*Serving Students and Their  
Families Who Lost Housing*

*Bridging the Gap between  
Living in Transition  
and School*

## Families in Transition Program

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### Program Mission

The Families in Transition Program offered through Leon County Schools is dedicated to assisting families living in transition by eliminating barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and overall academic success.

The F.I.T. Program supports the whole family by linking them with community resources in order to reach the goal of self-sufficiency.

## Every Child Has the Right to an Education

If you lost your housing due to economic hardship, natural disaster, or other similar reason, and are living temporarily with friends or relatives, or in shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground; or on the street; in an abandoned building, then you are eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act.

### Your children have the right to:

- ⇒ Go to their school of origin (the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or where last enrolled) or zoned school.
- ⇒ Continue in the school they last attended before they lost their housing, if that is the parent/guardian's choice, and it is feasible and in the child's best interest, or the school for which they are zoned due to their current living situation.
- ⇒ Enroll and attend classes immediately while the school arranges for the transfer or school and immunization records and any other documents required for enrollment.
- ⇒ Enroll and attend classes in the school where they are seeking enrollment (school of origin or zoned school) even while the school and the parent/guardian are seeking to resolve a dispute over which school is in the best interest of the child— Note: This does not mean any school in the district, only the school of origin or zoned school.
- ⇒ Receive transportation to the school they last attended before they lost their housing (if a parent/guardian requests such transportation); however, if the student lives within two miles of the school, then transportation is not guaranteed.

## F.I.T. Program Criteria

### Who is homeless? (Sec. 725)

The term “homeless children and youth”—

- (A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence ...; and
- (B) includes—
  - (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
  - (ii) children and youths who have 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 ...
  - (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  - (iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

### To Enroll in the F.I.T. Program

If the student meets the F.I.T Program criteria submit the Student Residency Form online or contact school registrar <http://www.leonschools.net/Domain/316>

This is the ONLY document required to enroll immediately and attend classes.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When to discuss the FIT Program with a family or youth?

- ◇ The family indicated YES on EITHER identified question when completing the Student Registration Form.
- ◇ Information is received that indicates that a student's living arrangement lacks regular, fixed, or adequate housing.

### What should you do if a student is not living with a legal parent/guardian?

- ◇ If the student is not accompanied by a parent/guardian, the Caregiver Authorization Form should be used. Please note, the Caregiver Authorization Form is not a legal and binding document.

### Are children and youth who move in with relatives, friends, or other people covered by the Act?

- ◇ Children and youth who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act.

### Is there a time limit on how long a child or youth can be considered homeless?

- ◇ No. Whether a child or youth meets the definition of homelessness depends upon the living situation and the individual circumstances.