

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Tiffany Jones
McKinney-Vento Liaison
tifjones@jackson.k12.ms.us
601.960.8885

Mrs. Cassandra Peterson
McKinney-Vento Social Worker
cpeterson@jackson.k12.ms.us
601.973.8596

Mrs. Lakeita Jackson
McKinney-Vento Social Worker
lakejackson@jackson.k12.ms.us

Ms. Rocsane Robinson
McKinney-Vento Social Worker
rocrobinson@jackson.k12.ms.us
601.960.8805



UNDERSTANDING THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF SCHOLARS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS,
SOCIAL WORKERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Jackson Public School's McKinney-Vento Program will now be called the Scholars That are Reaching for Success (STARS) Program beginning this 2023-2024 school year. This program is governed by federal legislation that ensures the educational rights and protections of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." This definition includes (but is not limited to) children who are:

- sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing (e.g. doubled-up)
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds
- living in emergency or transitional shelters
- sleeping in places unfit for human habitation (e.g. park benches)
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.



SERVICES PROVIDED

The Jackson Public School District is a recipient of the McKinney-Vento grant. With this additional funding, the district provides the required school uniforms, school supplies, and backpacks to eligible scholars. To support academic achievement, these funds provide tutoring at local homeless shelters where students experiencing homelessness reside.

TEAM MEMBERS

The McKinney-Vento Program team is made up of the McKinney-Vento Liaison, three McKinney-Vento Social Workers, and the School Points of Contact. The district's McKinney-Vento Liaison is responsible for ensuring the identification, school enrollment, and coordination of services for academic success. McKinney-Vento Social Workers are assigned to schools to provide direct support to families and schools and foster collaboration with community resources. Within each school, the principal designated a School Point of Contact who maintains compliance with program requirements.



PROGRAM GOALS

The program goals are identified below.

- The rate of chronic absenteeism among homeless students is equal to or lower than the district's overall chronic absenteeism rate.
- The high school graduation rate for homeless students is equal to or above the rate for all students who graduate from high school.
- Homeless students achieve academic proficiency at a rate equal to or above the rate for all students in the district.
- Coordinate with all key community agencies and organizations serving homeless children and youth.