



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
School Principals
School Counselors
School Social Workers
McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons
Federal Program Directors

FROM: Birley Wright
McKinney-Vento State Coordinator

DATE: October 8, 2024

RE: McKinney-Vento Homeless and Hurricane Helene

It is likely that many students in South Carolina will be displaced due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. The purpose of this memo is to remind districts of the requirements of the [McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) (Act) and the district's responsibilities in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Children and youth who have been displaced because of Hurricane Helene are eligible for McKinney-Vento (MV) under the Act.

All districts are required to have a MV liaison, and liaisons have been provided training on the requirements of the Act. MV liaisons should be your district's main point-of-contact for working with students who are displaced because of the hurricane and its aftermath. All eligible MV students should be immediately enrolled in school. If applicable, districts must follow their processes and procedures for dispute resolution while keeping the student immediately enrolled.

Generally, students experiencing homelessness should remain in their school of origin, to the greatest extent possible. Other options may include enrolling a student in the local attendance zone of a shelter or temporary housing in which the student is residing. As stated under the rights

of the Act, parents, guardians, and/or unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) will make that decision.

The temporary housing may be in another school district, and the liaisons for both districts should work together with the family to ensure a seamless transition to the new school, if applicable. It is likely that districts will have displaced students enrolling from other states as well. Intra- and interstate collaboration amongst MV liaisons is imperative for the educational continuity of students experiencing homelessness.

Districts are required to provide for the cost of transportation to the school of origin if that is the determination made. District Education Homeless Children and Youth (EH CY) funds and Title I, Part A Homeless Set-aside (TIPAH) funding may be used to cover the excess cost of transportation. The South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) MV Program Office recommends that district MV Liaisons work with community-based organizations (CBO) to help identify students as well as locate resources available to families.

The SCDE MV Program office is available to provide technical assistance and guidance. If you have questions, please contact mckinneyvento@ed.sc.gov.