



CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

A guide for parents, guardians, and caregivers

The goal of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is to ensure that each homeless child or youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

The mission of the Chelsea Public Schools is student success. Student success is enhanced when schools and families work together, with mutual respect, to support student achievement. It is also enriched when students are helped to positively cope with personal issues and conflicts that interfere with academic performance. One of the Chelsea Public Schools objective is to provide the supportive services necessary to allow students to make the best use of their educational opportunities as they develop their individual potential to the fullest extent while in a temporary living arrangement.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/hcy>

National Center for Homeless Education:

<http://www.centerserve.org/nche>

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth:

<http://www.naehcy.org>

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless:

<http://www.mahomeless.org>

Irosca Murillo,
Homeless Liaison
99 Hawthorne Street
Chelsea, MA 02150
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www.chelseaschools.com

The McKinney-Vento Act: The Basics

If you lost your housing and now live in temporary or inadequate housing, your child might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has adopted Section 725(2) of Act regarding the definition of homeless children and youth: *individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or have a primary nighttime residence in a supervised, publicly or privately, operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.*

This definition shall include: children and youth 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 adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; children and youth 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; children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above; and unaccompanied youth a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

A **fixed residence** is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change. A **regular residence** is one which is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis. An **adequate residence** is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments. Therefore, children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate residence will be considered homeless.

Frequently Asked Questions



1. When I move should I keep my child in the school of origin or transfer my child to the local school?

Moving from one school to another can be very 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 accustomed 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 receive 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?

2. What if the school and I disagree on where my child should go to school?

If you and the school disagree, the school district has to 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.

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

- ❖ 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) every so often to talk about how he or she is doing. Know at least one teacher at your child's school well enough to ask questions about your child's schoolwork and to give him or her information that will help your child learn.
- ❖ 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 his/her schoolwork.
- ❖ Other good people to know are the **school principal, attendance officer, transportation department, bus driver, school social worker, and school nurse**.
- ❖ **All school and school district staff** can help make sure your child gets all the services he or she needs to do well in school. You are an important partner in your child's schooling and should work as a team with the school and school district.

4. What questions should I ask regarding services under McKinney-Vento?

- ❖ 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 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 services 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?



Chelsea Public Schools ▪ Parent Information Center

99 Hawthorne Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: 617-466-5500 ▪ Fax: 617-889-7531

www.chelseaschools.com

What does the Chelsea Public Schools provides?

- Continued enrollment at their school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there.
- Access to the same programs and services that are available to all Chelsea students including, but not limited to, transportation to and from the school of origin, supplemental programs, special education services, school nutrition program, Title I services, school nurse services, before and after school, and summer enrichment programs.
- In determining the type of transportation to be offered, the homeless liaison for the Chelsea Public Schools will take into account the best interest of the student, the student's age, the distance to be traveled, access to public transportation, and the parent's circumstances.
- A homeless child or youth can attend either the local school or continue in the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.
- Immediate enrollment in school even if unable to produce the records normally required for enrollment, such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records.
- Attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the Chelsea Public Schools gathers records.
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; a student cannot be segregated because he or she is homeless.

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 preventative measures.
- 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 can also talk about these problems with a teacher or school counselor.
- Encourage your child to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports and music.

Good Questions Make Good Readers

Asking children about what they read will help them become good thinkers

For stories (fiction):

- What happened? What do you think will happen next? Why?
- Who is the main character? Do you like him/her? Why? Would you have done what he or she did? If not, what would you have done?
- How did this story make you feel? What did it remind you of?

For informational material (non-fiction):

- What was the article or chapter about? Get as many details as possible.
- What do you think was the author's main point?
- What part did you find the most interesting or surprising?
- Why do you think this information is important? How could it help you? Who else could it help?



Community Resources

ORGANIZATIONS

ABCD / The Housing Court Advocacy Program

178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111

Phone: (617) 348.6000

Description: The Housing and Homelessness Prevention Department has an array of homelessness prevention and stabilization programs. This program helps low and moderate income households prevent eviction, maintain their tenancy, and understand their tenant's rights and responsibilities. The HCA program staff advocate for tenants before and during court proceedings to help maintain their tenancy.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical – Chelsea

1000 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 975.6200

Description: Provide adult primary and specialty care, as well as laboratory, radiology and physical therapy services. Plenty of free parking and a retail pharmacy next door.

Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST)

25 Staniford Street, Boston, MA 02124

Phone: (800) 981.4357 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Description: Provides 24 hour emergency psychiatric services to adults, families, and organizations to the communities of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Brighton, Charlestown, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, North End and Roslindale.

Bunker Hill Community College – Chelsea Campus

175 Hawthorne Street, Bellingham Square, Chelsea, MA 02150 Phone: (617) 228.2101

Description: Provides higher education and job training opportunities to residents of Chelsea, Revere, Everett, East Boston, Winthrop and other surrounding communities.

C.A.P.I.C.

100 Everett Avenue, Unit 14, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.6130

Description: Provides innovative, practical, and timely programs and services which emphasize developing problem-solving skills for people and communities. Services include Head Start, Child Care Services, Housing & Homeless Services, Community Services, Fuel Assistance, Weatherization, Self-Sufficiency Counseling, Domestic Violence Counseling, Emergency Services and Public Safety Initiatives.

Career Resource

4 Gerrish Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.4333

Description: A career resource center that provides employment services to all types of businesses and job seekers at all professional levels.

Chelsea City Hall

500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.4060

Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays, 8:00-4:00. Tuesdays, 8:00-7:00. Fridays, 8:00-12:00

Chelsea Collaborative

318 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.6080

Description: An organization dedicated to enhance the social, environmental and economic health of the community and its people. Programs include: Chelsea Citywide Tenants Association, Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee, Chelsea Latino Immigrant Committee, Chelsea Summer Youth Employment Initiative, Chelsea United in Defense of Education, Chelsea Voter Initiative, Shanbaro Community Association, and Chelsea Community Fund.

Chelsea Community Center

207 Shurtleff Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.8776

Description: Helps build strong families and a strong community.

Chelsea Community Connections Coalition

113 Hawthorne Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.7100

*Description: Provides support to any family in the community with children under the age of 18. **Children's clothing**, book and equipment exchange. "Fun Bus" provides family field trips primarily in summer to encourage positive family experiences. Offers a 15-week "Nurturing Program" in English (spring session) and Spanish (fall session) to help parents develop parenting skills.*

Chelsea Community Schools

180 Walnut Street, Room 107, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.5233

Description: Chelsea Community Schools (CCS) enhances the lives of Chelsea residents by providing affordable, high-quality education and recreation programs for youth and adults. Each season, hundreds of individuals participate in CCS classes and dozens of community organizations use our city's state of the art public schools facilities. Since 1996, CCS, operated by the City Of Chelsea's Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with Chelsea Public Schools, has been evolving in response to the diverse and changing needs of our community.

Chelsea Fire Department

307 Chestnut Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.4600

Chelsea Housing Authority

54 Locke Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.5617

Description: Committed to providing a full-range of safe, secure, suitable, and appropriate affordable housing opportunities to extremely low, very-low, and low-income family, elderly, and disabled households in a fair manner.

Chelsea Neighborhood Developers

4 Gerrish Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.1375

Description: A long-standing non-profit community development corporation that is strengthening our community by developing affordable and mixed-income housing, creating desirable public spaces, building resident prosperity and leadership and promoting strong connections among neighbors.

Chelsea Police Department

19 Park Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.4855

Chelsea Public Library

569 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.4350

*Description: Established to serve the community and to provide an organized collection of printed or other materials. Services include **access to computers** for a session of one hour **including printing**.*

Chelsea Revere Family Network

67 Crescent Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 887.0076

*Description: Provides universal strength-based education and support programs for families of children aged birth through early school age. Direct services include: playgroups for children birth to age eight, self-development workshops and trainings for parents, parenting education programs and support groups, family literacy programs with Raising A Reader and FCN lending library, community events and family celebrations, information and referral services, **help providing basic human needs such as clothing and food**, EEC waiting list sign-up.*

Coupons.com

Description: A free web service that allows users to print coupons for savings on brand name food and general purpose items used every day. Requires internet connection and printer.

Department of Children & Families

80 Everett Avenue, Suite 300, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 660.3400

Description: In charge of protecting children from abuse and neglect and strengthening families.

Department of Health & Human Services

500 Broadway, Room 100B, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.4090

Description: Assist residents in achieving self-sufficiency and quality in their lives through the delivery and coordination of services.

Department of Transitional Assistance – Chelsea Center

80 Everett Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 551.1700

Description: Assist low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, increase their incomes, and improve their quality of life.

Family-to-Family Project

14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

Phone: (617) 642.3837

Description: Supports families who are losing or have lost their homes by providing timely, innovative, and flexible grants that restore hope. These grants help families move out of shelter or retain their housing and avoid becoming homeless.

HarborCOV

148 Shawmut Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.9799

Hotline: (617) 884.9909

Description: Provides free safety and support services, along with housing and economic opportunities that promote long-term stability for people affected by violence and abuse.

Intergenerational Literacy Project

99 Hawthorne Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.4090

Description: The program seeks to accomplish the general goal of supporting families in working with their children, both to attain the instructional objectives of the schools and to reinforce positive attitudes toward education. To accomplish the larger goal, two sub-goals and objectives have been outlined: to improve the literacy skills of participating adults and to improve literacy knowledge among preschool and school-aged children. The core programming is ESOL family literacy. The program offers 4 ESOL family literacy classes (3 in the morning and 1 in the evening). It also offers children's educational classes to 80 children so that parents are able to attend class. In the morning and evening, they serve children ages 6 months to 5 years. In the evening and during school vacations, they also offer classes for school-aged children.

LARE Training Center

100 Everett Avenue, Room 100B, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.4615

Description: Provides educational, occupational skill training, and job placement programs to youth and adults. Licensed as a private business and trade school.

MGH Chelsea Health Center

151 Everett Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.8300

Food for Families: (617) 887-3575

*Description: Provides primary care for children, adolescents, adults and seniors with extended hours and on-call physician care 24 hours a day. Programs include **WIC**, a nutrition program that provides nutrition and health education, healthy food, breastfeeding support and other services free of charge to Massachusetts families who qualify. Another program is the **Food for Families**, coaching and support to access local food resources and apply for SNAP/food stamps. Teaching about healthy eating on a budget.*

North Suffolk Mental Health

301 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 912.7900

Description: Strives to help people achieve independence and fullness of life by providing a wide variety of treatment and rehabilitation services, by intervening as early as possible, by promoting prevention and education, and by participating in training and research. Programs include: Adult Mental Health Services, Addiction Services, Child & Family Services, Emergency Services, Development Disabilities Services, and Early Childhood Services.

Parents Helping Parents

108 Water Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: (617) 926.5008

Parental Stress Line (800) 632.8188

Description: A nonprofit organization focused on preventing child abuse by offering free parenting help and support. Parents can call the Parental Stress Line for 24-hour parenting help and may choose to join weekly Parent Support Groups for ongoing support. Both programs are anonymous, confidential, and uniquely suited to support parents who are feeling isolated, overwhelmed, or hesitant to ask for help from people they know.

Project Bread

145 Border Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Phone: (617) 723.5000

*Description: An anti-hunger organization creating and promoting programs to help end hunger in Massachusetts. **Referrals to pantries and meal programs. Free summer meals for kids to 18 years.***

Roca

101 Park Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.5210

Description: Dedicated to transforming the lives of the most high-risk young people ages 17-24. Helps young people re-engage in society and moves them toward outcomes of reduced criminal involvement, economic independence, and educational gains by providing participants with case management, educational, employment, and life skills programming including GED preparation and pre-vocational trainings. It works with at-risk to very high-risk young mothers aged 12-24 through the Young Mothers Project and the Harbor Area Healthy Families program.

Shore Educational Collaborative - The School/Community Partnership

100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 887.2930

Description: Focuses on collaborative planning, identification and analysis of needs, and the exploration of integrated service delivery for high-risk students. The Partnership has encouraged and enabled intra agency cooperation through establishment of an expanded Steering Committee. This 15 member oversight group consists of representatives from three School Districts and area Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and Mental Health Agencies.

FOOD PANTRIES

First Baptist Church “Fair Foods”

209 Beach Street, Revere, MA 02151

Phone: (781) 284.4550

Fair Foods: (617) 288.6185

Food Pantry: (2nd & 4th Saturday of the month) 11:30-1:00 – For a donation of \$2.00, bring home a bag weighing approximately 15 pounds

First Congregational Church of Revere

230 Beach Street, Revere, MA 02151

Phone: (781) 284.4158

Food Pantry: (Wednesdays) 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Requirements: Photo ID, Proof of Chelsea Residency

The Salvation Army

258 Chestnut Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.0260

Food Pantry: (Monday-Friday) 9:30-12:30 – Requirements: Photo ID, Proof of Income & Residency

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

201 Washington Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.4278

Community Dining: (Saturdays) Breakfast: 9:00-10:00 & Lunch 11:15-12:30 – No appointment necessary

Food Pantry: (Saturdays) 9:00-12:00 – Requirement: Schedule appointment

Thrift Store: (Saturdays) 9:00-12:30 – New and used clothing and more

CHILD CARE CENTERS

A Kangaroo's Pouch, Inc.

86 Chestnut Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.5109

Best Friends Early Learning Center

99 Fourth Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.5016

CAPIC Head Start

67 Crescent Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.5690

CAPIC Child Development Center - Infant Toddler Preschool Program

9 Arlington Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.5991

Central Avenue Children's Center

70 Central Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.8432

Family Child Care Program – Associated Early Care & Education

80 Everett Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.4884

First Steps Early Learning Center

1 Webster Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (855) 417.8783

Kids First Day Care and Learning Center

322 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 296.9061

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

CAPIC After School Program

9 Arlington Street Extension, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 889.9929 ext. 207 or 208

Description: Offers a safe, nurturing and educationally appropriate environment for school aged children including programming during the summer months when the public schools are not in session. The Program is a multicultural educational/ recreational program for urban youth between the ages of 5 and 12.

Chelsea Community Schools

180 Walnut Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 466.5233

Description: Enhances the lives of Chelsea residents by providing affordable, high-quality education and recreation programs for youth and adults.

For Kids Only

300 Crescent Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (781) 732.0308

Description: With a mission to support the holistic needs of children, FKO fully believes learning extends well beyond the classroom, and OST Educators are a key component to building life-long learning skills.

Jordan Boys & Girls Club of Chelsea

30 Willow Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.9435

Description: Provides members, ages 6-18, after-school programming that builds children's educational and character development. Members may take part in a wide range of activities, some of which include: art, tutoring, swimming, digital photography, hiking club, music and many others!

The Salvation Army Kid's Club

258 Chestnut Street, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.0260

Description: A school-age program that is licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care to provide after-school, school-vacation and summer care to children in Kindergarten through age 13. Kid's Club encourages in its participants a strong sense of self-efficacy and self-esteem, values the importance of education, promotes the benefits of physical activity, and provides opportunities for children to explore new ideas and interests.

East Boston Social Center After School Program

68 Central Square, East Boston, MA 02128

Phone: (617) 569.3221

Description: A multi-service agency, serving culturally diverse families and individuals of all ages. Currently provides fully licensed and accredited childcare for children ages two months through fourteen years, free after-school programming for at-risk teens, summer playschool day camp, nutritional and social and recreational programming for the elderly, and community space for numerous advocacy, self-help and community groups.

East Boston YMCA After School Program

215 Bremen Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Phone: (617) 569.9622

54 Ashley Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Phone: (617) 418.7331

Description: A family-centered program that nurtures the whole child by inspiring academic success, healthy movement and social and emotional development. For children ages 5 - 13, including children with special needs.

North Suffolk Children's After School Program

710 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884.6413

Description: A Large Group and School Age Child Care with a maximum capacity of 20 children.

YOUTH LEAGUES

Chelsea Little League

<http://www.eteamz.com/chelsealittleleague>

Little League Baseball, Incorporated is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "to promote, develop, supervise, and voluntarily assist in all lawful ways, the interest of those who will participate in Little League Baseball and Softball."

Chelsea Pop Warner

PO Box 6111, Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 461.4231

The mission of Pop Warner Little Scholars is to enable young people to benefit from participation in team sports and activities in a safe and structured environment. Through this active participation, Pop Warner programs teach fundamental values, skills and knowledge that young people will use throughout their lives.

Chelsea Pride

<http://www.chelseapride.webs.com/>

The goal of our league is to provide a safe and productive environment that enables children to learn and apply the principles of teamwork, discipline, dedication and sportsmanship. We facilitate the development of strength and character in every child that participates. Participation in our league is open to all boys and girls in the City Of Chelsea.