

## Homeless and Foster Care Students:

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires schools to immediately enroll students who are homeless or in foster care even if their immunization and other school records are missing or unavailable at the time of enrollment. ARS 15-872 states that while the school is still required to obtain the student's immunization record and ensure that the student has met all immunization requirements, it also says that students in a homeless or foster care situation are not required to provide documentary proof of immunization until the fifth calendar day after enrollment in school.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has interpreted the McKinney Vento Act to supersede regulations established by individual states. Because the ADE is the primary state agency that regulates schools and they have a great deal of knowledge and expertise in matters concerning McKinney-Vento, ADHS defers to them concerning the continued attendance of homeless students. Contact information for the State Homeless Coordinator and Foster Care Education Coordinator are listed below.

Once a homeless/foster care student is enrolled, school staff should work with the student's former school to obtain the student's immunization records quickly. Exclusion should not be an immediate option. School staff may also contact their school or district local liaison for homeless students for assistance in obtaining needed records. Please refer to ADE [Office of Homeless Education](#) for additional information.

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