Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act) provides educational rights and services for children and youth who lack a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence”, such those who are: Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason (including running away from their home or being forced to leave home); In shelters and transitional housing programs; Staying in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, campgrounds and public spaces; or Living in motels. The Act requires school districts to identify all children and youth who are eligible for the Act’s services.

✓ **Avoid** using the word “homeless” with students, parents or colleagues, as it evokes stereotypes that do not match the reality of most young people who have lost their homes.

✓ **Share** information about the McKinney-Vento Act and homelessness with colleagues (teachers, nurses, guidance counselors, etc.)

✓ **Put up posters about the McKinney-Vento Act in your office.**

✓ Make it a part of your routine to talk to students about the McKinney-Vento Act and services for youth who have left home. The students who meet the Act’s definition **may surprise you.**

✓ **Exercise sensitivity** when talking with youth and parents, who often are afraid to identify themselves as homeless due to fears of stigma or negative repercussions.

✓ Find out who is the McKinney-Vento Liaison in your school and **always** communicate to him/her if you discover, or suspect that a student meets the McKinney-Vento criteria.

✓ **CAREFULLY handle information regarding a McKinney-Vento student and/or family.**