

**Argos Community Schools**  
**410 N. First St.**  
**Argos, IN 46501**  
**Phone: (574) 892-5139**  
**Fax: (574) 892-6527**



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# **Argos Community Schools**

## **McKinney-Vento District Plan**

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## **SECTION 1: OVERVIEW/GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) (McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently reauthorized in December 10th, 2016 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths. Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. SEAs and local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

### **Definition of Homeless (McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C 11435(2)):**

Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- ✓ "Double up" - Sharing the housing of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- ✓ Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- ✓ Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- ✓ Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.
- ✓ Migratory children living in above circumstances
- ✓ Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- ✓ Unaccompanied Youth - Children or youth who meets the definition of homeless and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

### **Residency and Educational Rights:**

Students who are in temporary, inadequate and homeless living situations have the following rights in the **Argos Community School Corporation**:

- ✓ Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended or the school in whose attendance area they are currently staying even if they do not have all of the documents normally required at the time of enrollment;
- ✓ Access to free meals and textbooks, Title I and other educational programs and other

- comparable services including transportation;
- ✓ Attendance in the same classes and activities that students in other living situations also participate in without fear of being separated or treated differently due to their housing situations.

### **Procedures for the Dissemination of Educational Rights:**

All schools within the **Argos Community School Corporation** shall ensure that public notice of the educational rights of students and families in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act. Posters in both English and Spanish will be posted in all school buildings, the local post office building, town hall, and local library.

## **SECTION 2: IDENTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **Title 1 Services and Funding:**

In **Argos Community School Corporation**, all children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services are automatically eligible for Title I, Part A services, whether or not they attend a Title I, Part A school or meet the academic standards required of other students for eligibility (Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sec. 1115(b)(2)(E); 20 U.S.C. 6315(b)(2)(E)). This automatic eligibility acknowledges that the experience of homelessness puts children and youth at significant risk of academic failure, regardless of their previous academic standing. Additionally, all children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services who are doing well academically are entitled to receive additional non-instructional education related support services needed to succeed in school.

### **School Selection:**

**Argos Community School Corporation** will keep students in homeless situations in their school of origin defined as the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes or unless it is determined to be in the student's best educational interest. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to remain in their school of origin for the entire duration in which they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services may also choose to enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

### **Procedures to Identify and Verify Eligibility of McKinney-Vento Students:**

Every current, returning, and new student in the **Argos Community School Corporation** must complete online enrollment via the district's School Management System known as Skyward. One of the forms to be completed online is the **Argos Community School Corporation** McKinney-Vento Housing Information Form (Appendix A). This **Argos Community School Corporation** McKinney-Vento Housing Information Form will be utilized to determine if the student

is facing a homeless situation. Follow-up contact to verify the information provided on the **Argos Community School Corporation** McKinney-Vento Housing Information Form will be conducted within 5 days of the completion of online enrollment by either the district or a building level McKinney-Vento liaison.

## **SECTION 3: SERVICES AND STANDARDS**

### **Transportation:**

Each **Argos Community School Corporation** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including transportation services.

**Argos Community School Corporation** will provide students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent or guardian's request. For unaccompanied youth, **Argos Community School Corporation** will provide transportation to and from the school of origin at the request of the District McKinney-Vento Liaison. If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, **Argos Community School Corporation** will provide and/or arrange transportation to and from school. If the student is living outside of the **Argos Community School Corporation**, **Argos Community School Corporation** will work with the other corporation to share transportation or will assume the responsibility and cost of providing transportation to and from school if nothing can be worked out with the other corporation to share the transportation. Transportation will be set up within 5 school days of qualification.

Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive these transportation services for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

*\*\*\*"School of Origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.\*\*\**

### **Food Services:**

Each **Argos Community School Corporation** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including school nutrition programs. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch as offered by each school for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

### **Textbooks and Technology:**

Each **Argos Community School Corporation** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including access to instructional materials, assessments, and technology. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free textbooks and technology fees as

offered by each school for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

### **Academic Services & Standards:**

Each **Argos Community School Corporation** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including educational services for which the child or youth meet the eligibility criteria (Title I services, pre- school, educational programs for children with disabilities or for students with limited English proficiency), programs in vocational and technical education, and programs for gifted and talented students as available.

## **SECTION 4: ENROLLMENT**

### **Enrollment Procedures:**

Any child or youth who claims to be homeless will be immediately enrolled in **Argos Community School Corporation** even if they do not have required documents such as:

- ✓ school records
- ✓ medical records
- ✓ proof of residency
- ✓ Guardianship papers or other documents.

Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.

The McKinney-Vento District Liaison will assist unaccompanied youth in choosing and enrolling in a school after considering the youth's wishes, informing the youth of his or her rights to transportation and assisting the youth in accessing transportation, and informing the youth of his or her right to appeal school or school district decisions. The McKinney-Vento District Liaison must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that may arise over school enrollment or placement.

Unaccompanied youth have the right to:

- Remain in their school of origin
- Transportation to and from the school of origin
- Immediately enroll in a new school serving the area in which they are currently living even if they do not have typically required documents (e.g. proof of guardianship)
- Equal access to programs and services such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, and English Language Learner services.

**Argos Community School Corporation** shall remove any/all barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations. Students in homeless situations shall be free from segregation, isolation, and stigmatization.

*\*\*\*The term “enroll” is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.\*\*\**

*\*\*\*“School of Origin” is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.\*\*\**

### **Appeal and Dispute Processes:**

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows.

- Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:
  - I. the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
  - II. the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal
  - III. the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
  - IV. in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

*\*\*\*The McKinney-Vento District Level Team consists of McKinney-Vento District Liaison/Superintendent, Building Level Liaisons, and Director of Transportation.\*\*\**

If a dispute arises over qualification for McKinney-Vento services, the child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services provided by **Argos Community School Corporation** Schools, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act as follows.

- Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:
  - V. the child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services, pending resolution of the dispute;
  - VI. the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal (Appendix B)
  - VII. the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento

- District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
- VIII. in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth receives all McKinney-Vento rights and services pending resolution of the dispute.

## **SECTION 5: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **McKinney-Vento Professional Development Opportunities:**

Professional development for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will be provided to all staff members of **Argos Community School Corporation** Schools via Annual McKinney-Vento District Level Required Training (August of each year).

### **District Website:**

The **Argos Community School Corporation** Website will include a page that will be used to communicate McKinney-Vento information with students, parents, staff, and community members. Information on the **Argos Community School Corporation** Schools' Website will include:

- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento District Liaison
- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento Building Level Liaisons
- Notice of Rights for McKinney-Vento Families
- Dispute Resolution Documents
- Link to McKinney-Vento Resources

## **SECTION 6: EDUCATIONAL STAFFING AND SUPPORT**

### **McKinney-Vento District Liaison's Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Superintendent for **Argos Community School Corporation** serves as the District McKinney-Vento Liaison and will:

- Ensure that procedures are established and followed across the school district and provide each child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services with a free and appropriate education.
- Work collaboratively with transportation and food services personnel to coordinate appropriate services for any child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services.
- Disseminate critical information concerning the rights of students in homeless situations to all schools.
- Post information regarding the availability of school programs and services for students facing homeless situations in the local post office building, town hall, and local library.
- Maintain a McKinney-Vento District Liaison Log to document the McKinney-Vento process for each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Plan and facilitate professional development regarding the McKinney-Vento Homeless



Assistance Act to all staff responsible for identifying and working with students facing homeless situations.

- Work with building level staff and administration to facilitate success of the McKinney-Vento program and each student facing a homeless situation.
- Meet with community agencies and volunteers to share resources and information and to evaluate impact of services.
- Monitor all district data collection and reporting requirements on each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Attend state level professional development opportunities.

**McKinney-Vento District Liaison:**

- **Name:** Ned Speicher
- **Email:** [nspeicher@argos.k12.in.us](mailto:nspeicher@argos.k12.in.us)
- **Phone:** 574-892-5139

**McKinney-Vento Building Level Liaison’s Roles and Responsibilities:**

Each school in **Argos Community School Corporation** District will identify one staff member (social worker, counselor, administrator, etc.) who will serve as a representation on the McKinney- Vento District Level Team and will:

- Identify students that may be facing homeless situations.
- Monitor school attendance.
- Ensure that building level procedures are established and followed to provide each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services with a free and appropriate education.
- Post public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations at the school.
- Make sure parents feel welcome and set the tone for further parental involvement.
- Establish a trusting relationship with students and parents.

**Building Level McKinney-Vento Liaisons for each school are as follows:**

**Argos Elementary School**

600 Yearick Ave.

Argos, IN 46501

Phone: (574) 892-5136

**Mrs. Alesha Shepherd**

**Student Advocate**

[ahoppes@argos.k12.in.us](mailto:ahoppes@argos.k12.in.us)

**Argos Jr.-Sr. High School**

500 Yearick Ave.

Argos, IN 46501

Phone: (574) 892-5137

**Mrs. Beth Schmeltz**

**Guidance Counselor**

[bschmeltz@argos.k12.in.us](mailto:bschmeltz@argos.k12.in.us)

## McKinney-Vento Act Residency & Educational Rights Information

**(Questionnaire must be completed for each student)**

In Indiana over 29,000 children experience homelessness each year. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was created with the goal of ensuring the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.

The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for homeless students. This includes waiving certain requirements such as proof of residency when students are enrolling and allowing eligibility for certain services, such as free textbooks.

When families and students find themselves in transition due to their housing situation, it is important that they know their rights regarding education. If students meet the requirements as stated in the McKinney- Vento Act (42 U.S.C11431) (TitleVII, Subtitle B), their rights are as follows:

- ✓ Students may attend their school of origin or the school where they are temporarily residing.
- ✓ Students must be provided a written statement of their rights when they enroll and at least two additional times per year.
- ✓ Students may enroll without school, medical or similar records.
- ✓ Students have a right to transportation to school.
- ✓ Students must be provided a statement explaining why they are denied enrollment or any other services.
- ✓ Students must receive services, such as transportation, while disputes are being settled.
- ✓ Students are automatically eligible for Title I services. *Educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State or local programs, educational programs for students with limited English proficiency.*

According to the U.S. Department of Education, people living in the following situations are considered homeless:

- ✓ Doubled up with family or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- ✓ Living in motels and hotels for lack of other suitable housing
- ✓ Runaway and displaced children and youth– Unaccompanied Youth
- ✓ Homes for unwed or expectant mothers for lack of a place to live
- ✓ Homeless and domestic violence shelters
- ✓ Transitional housing programs
- ✓ The streets
- ✓ Abandoned buildings
- ✓ Public places not meant for housing
- ✓ Cars, trailers(does not include mobile homes intended for permanent housing), and campgrounds
- ✓ Migratory children staying in housing not fit for habitation

**Argos Community School Corporation**  
**McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Identification Form**  
**Confidential Student Record**

**Student Living Status/Current Living Situation & Living Arrangements**

(select the appropriate response in each category)

<b>Unaccompanied Homeless Youth</b> (mark one): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Current Living Situation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In a shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Doubled up with relatives or others due to lack of housing <input type="checkbox"/> In a motel/hotel, campground or other situation due to lack of alternative, adequate housing	<input type="checkbox"/> At a train or bus station, park or in a car <input type="checkbox"/> In an abandoned apartment or building <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster victim (fire, flood, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain):
<b>Living arrangements for SIS identification:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In a shelter <input type="checkbox"/> In a hotel/motel <input type="checkbox"/> Doubled up <input type="checkbox"/> Unsheltered (on the street, car, park, campground, abandoned building)	
<b>Notes/Explanation of current living situation:</b>	

**Student/Family Information**

-----Mark Appropriate Boxes-----

Student Name	Date of Birth	Grade	School	Special Ed	Migrant	English Learner	Received Title I-A Services

Name of parent/legal guardian:
Name/relationship of person with whom student or family is doubled up:
Name of educational guardian (requires documentation):
Main contact phone number:
Email, if available:

Current Address	Move Date	Former Address(es)	Move Date

**District Information(filled in at central office/transportation level)**

School District of Origin:	School District of Residence:
School District where child(ren) attend/are served:	Sharing district contacted: ___ Yes
Name of transportation billing staff contacted:	Name of Homeless Liaison contacted:
Date of contact:	Notes:

**Transportation (filled in at central office/transportation level)**

Transportation provided? ___ Yes ___ No	
Type of transportation: ___ School bus (including additional or extended routes) ___ City bus/public transportation ___ Gas reimbursement, mileage calculation:	___ Taxi ___ Contracted transportation service ___ Other (please specify):
Transportation costs are shared with _____ School District ( <i>*District of origin and district of residence will share transportation costs evenly (50/50), if no other agreement is in place.</i> )	
Notes:	

### Resources and Services

<input type="checkbox"/> McKinney Vento rights reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate enrollment <input type="checkbox"/> Rights to attend district of origin/residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Free school meals/fees waived
<input type="checkbox"/> Student information shared with the school district sharing transportation costs	
<input type="checkbox"/> School and district staff confidentially received student information <input type="checkbox"/> Food service <input type="checkbox"/> Registration/enrollment <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation department	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building social worker or counselor <input type="checkbox"/> Building principal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community resources available and information shared <input type="checkbox"/> Food and clothing <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable permanent housing <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health services	
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic abuse resources <input type="checkbox"/> Medical, dental and other health services <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal/holiday	
Current order of protection or no contact order exists <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Other:	

Date/time shared with parent/guardian/unaccompanied homeless youth:

## Housing and Educational Rights

**Students without fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residences have the following rights:**

- 1) Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended or the local school where they are currently staying even if they do not have all the documents normally required at the time of enrollment without fear of being separated or treated differently due to their housing situations;
- 2) Transportation to the school of origin for the regular school day;
- 3) Access to free meals, free textbooks, Title I and other educational programs, and transportation to extracurricular activities to the same extent that it is offered to other students.

Any questions about these rights can be directed to the local McKinney-Vento Liaison, Ned Speicher at (574) 892-5139 or the State Coordinator at (317) 232-9189.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and understand the above rights.

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*Signature of Parent/Guardian/Unattached Youth*

*Date*

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*Signature of McKinney-Vento Liaison*

*Date*

Argos Community School Corporation  
McKinney-Vento Liaison  
Ned Speicher, Superintendent  
410 N. First St.  
Argos, IN 46501  
Email: [nspeicher@argos.k12.in.us](mailto:nspeicher@argos.k12.in.us)  
Phone: 574-892-5139

Indiana Department of Education  
McKinney-Vento Education State Coordinator  
Gina Woodward  
115 West Washington Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
Email: [gwoodward1@doe.in.gov](mailto:gwoodward1@doe.in.gov)  
Phone: 317-232-9189

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Dear Parent:

Be advised that you have the right to appeal the decisions made by **Argos Community School Corporation** regarding your student's eligibility and enrollment under Title X, Part C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Students involved in a McKinney-Vento dispute process have the right to enroll immediately in the school of choice pending resolution of the dispute. Immediate enrollment includes full participation in all school activities.

As the district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison designee, notification should be made to **Ned Speicher** in writing within 10 business days of receipt of this letter if you want to appeal the district's decision outlined above.

Below you will find an appeal form that you can use for this notification. If we cannot reach a resolution at the district-level; As required by Indiana Code 20-26-11-15, the Indiana State Board of Education will hear all appeals on an order expelling a child under IC 20-8.1- 5.1-11 (legal settlement), in addition to all disputes on (A) legal settlement; (B) right to transfer; (C) right to attend school in any school corporation; (D) amount of transfer tuition; and (E) any under matter arising under IC 20-26-11-15 (Transfers and Transfer Tuition).

- A. The party requesting an appeal or resolution of a dispute by the State Board of Education will submit a request in writing to the State Board Liaison at the Indiana Department of Education. [State Board Appeal Memo.pdf](#)
- B. The Board shall hold a hearing on the timely written application of the interested party.
- C. The Board shall make its determination under the following procedure:
  - A hearing shall be held on each matter presented.
  - Each interested party, including (where appropriate) the parents, student, transferor corporation, transferee corporation, or the state, shall be given at least ten (10) days' notice of the hearing by certified mail or personal delivery. The date of giving the notice is the date of mailing or delivery.
  - Any interested party may appear at the hearing in person or by counsel, present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and present in writing or orally summary statements of position, and a written or recorded transcript of the hearing shall be made.

- The hearing may be held by the Indiana State Board of Education or by a hearing examiner appointed by it who must be a state employee. The hearing, at the option of the State Board of Education or hearing examiner, may be held at any place in Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE) State Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Act. State Coordinator, Gina Woodward, can be reached by phone at 317-232-9189 or via email at: [gwoodward1@doe.in.gov](mailto:gwoodward1@doe.in.gov).

Attached you will find a copy of Indiana's McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process that provides additional details on the state's McKinney-Vento dispute and appeals process, including key timelines.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions on this decision or the McKinney-Vento dispute or appeal process.

Attachments:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/guidance/dispute-resolution>

Sincerely,

Ned Speicher, Superintendent  
McKinney-Vento District Liaison