

**PELHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENROLLMENT FORM - RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE
McKinney-Vento Act**



Name of LEA: PELHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Name of School: _____

Name of Student: _____
Last First Middle

Gender: Male Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Grade: ____ ID#: _____
 Female Month Day Year (preschool-12) (optional)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

The answer you give below will help the district determine what services you or your child may be able to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to immediate enrollment in school even if they don't have the documents normally needed, such as proof of residency, school records, immunization records, or birth certificate. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act may also be entitled to free transportation and other services.

Where is the student currently living? (Please check one box.)

- In a shelter
- With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up")
- In a hotel/motel
- In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite
- Other temporary living situation (Please describe): _____

- In permanent housing

Print name of Parent, Guardian, or Student (for unaccompanied homeless youth)

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Student (for unaccompanied homeless youth)

Date

NOTE TO SCHOOLS/LEAS: If the student is **NOT** living in permanent housing, please ensure that a Designation Form is completed.

Please contact the district's **Homeless Liaison, Mr. Eugene Farrell**, Director of Counseling, for assistance:
914-738-8110 x1104 or efarrell@pelhamschools.org.

PELHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FORMULARIO DE INSCRIPCIÓN – CUESTIONARIO DE RESIDENCIA
McKinney-Vento Act



Nombre del Distrito Escolar: PELHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Nombre de la Escuela: _____

Nombre del Estudiante: _____
Apellido Primer Nombre Segundo Nombre

Género: Hombre Fecha de Nacimiento: ____ / ____ / ____ Grado: ____ ID#: ____
 Mujer Mes Día Año (jardín de infantes – 12) (opcional)

Dirección: _____ Teléfono: _____

Su respuesta abajo permitirá al distrito escolar definir los servicios que puede aprovechar su hijo/hija según el Acto de McKinney-Vento. Los estudiantes elegibles tienen derecho a la inscripción inmediata en la escuela, aun si ellos no tienen los documentos necesarios tales como: prueba de residencia, documentos escolares, documentos de inmunización, o partida de nacimiento. Los estudiantes elegibles según el Acto de McKinney-Vento tienen además derecho al transporte gratuito y otros servicios que ofrece el distrito escolar.

¿Dónde está el estudiante viviendo actualmente? (Por favor marque una caja.)

- En un refugio
- Con otra familia o otra persona debido a la pérdida del hogar o a dificultades económicas
- En un hotel/motel
- En un carro, parque, autobús, tren, o camping
- Otra vivienda temporal (Por favor describa): _____
- En un hogar permanente

Nombre de Padre, Guardián, o
 Estudiante (para jóvenes sin acompañamiento)

Firma de Padre, Guardián, o
 Estudiante (para jóvenes sin acompañamiento)

Fecha

ATENCIÓN ESCUELAS Y DISTRITOS: Si el estudiante **NO** vive en un hogar permanente, favor de asegurarse que una Formulario de Designación sea completado.

Comuníquese con el enlace de personas sin hogar del distrito, Sr. Eugene Farrell, director de consejería, para obtener asistencia:

914-738-8110 x1104 or efarrell@pelhamschools.org.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ENROLLMENT FORM – RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

Purpose of the Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire

All LEAs are required to identify students experiencing homelessness. Additionally, all LEAs that receive Title I funds must ask enrolling students about their housing status. SED encourages all LEAs regardless of whether they receive Title I funds to do the same. To collect this information, LEAs may:

1. Use the Model Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire attached here,
2. Update/modify the Model Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire to address the needs of the LEA, or
3. Incorporate the housing status question from the Model Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire into the LEA's Enrollment Form or other documents already used by the LEA during the enrollment process.

If an LEA elects the third option and incorporates the housing status question into the LEA's Enrollment Form, the LEA should take steps to ensure that a student's housing status does not become a part of the student's permanent record, because of the sensitive nature of this information. Please see the section titled "Confidentiality" (below) for information about how and when housing information may be shared within the LEA.

Who should fill out the Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire?

A Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire should be filled out for all students enrolling in school and for all students who have a change of address in grades preschool-12. Preschool includes any LEA program for 3-5 year olds, such as pre-k, Head Start, or Even Start. The Form - Questionnaire should be completed by the student's parent, person in parental relation, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, by the student directly.

Confidentiality

Student housing information should be kept confidential to the maximum extent possible. This information should only be shared with LEA/school staff members who need information about housing status to ensure that the student's educational needs are met. To this end, LEAs may share a student's completed **Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire** with LEA personnel such as:

1. the LEA liaison,
2. the registrar,
3. the student's teachers, and/or guidance counselor, and
4. the LEA staff member responsible for reporting data to SED

However, this information should only be shared with the above staff members to the extent that it will enable them to better meet the educational needs of the student in question and to fulfill reporting requirements mandated by SED.

Other than the above uses, housing information **should be kept confidential** and generally **should not be shared** with other LEA/school personnel due to its sensitive nature and the stigma attached to being labeled homeless. LEAs are also encouraged to seek out ways of preventing Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaires and housing information from becoming a part of a student's permanent record.

Discussing the Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire with Students and Families

In reviewing the Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire with parents, persons in parental relation, and unaccompanied youth, LEAs should emphasize that the purpose of gathering the information is to ensure that students in temporary housing arrangements are provided with the rights and services to which they are entitled under the McKinney-Vento Act. These rights and services include:

1. The right to stay in the same school the student had been attending before losing his/her housing or the last school attended (both known as the school of origin),
2. The right to immediate enrollment for students who decide to transfer schools, even if the student does not have all of the documents normally for enrollment,
3. Transportation services if the student continues to attend the school of origin,
4. Categorical eligibility for Title I services if offered in the LEA,
5. Categorical eligibility for free meals if offered in the LEA, and
6. Access to services provided with McKinney-Vento funds if available in the LEA.

The LEA should also ensure that the parent, person in parental relation, unaccompanied youth is aware that the student's housing status will be kept confidential and will only be shared with those LEA staff responsible for providing services to the student and those responsible for keeping track of how many students are identified as living in temporary housing in the LEA.

LEAs are advised to explain to parents that if a parent claims that her/his child is living in temporary housing, and the LEA wishes to conduct an investigation to verify this information, the LEA may conduct a home visit. However LEAs **cannot contact a landlord or building superintendent** to verify a student's housing status. Contacting a landlord or building superintendent may be a violation of FERPA, a federal law, and may put the family at risk of losing its housing. If the student is living in a doubled up situation, it may also lead to loss of housing for the primary tenants.

If the Parent, Person in Parental Relation, or Unaccompanied Youth Declines to Fill Out the Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire

If the parent, person in parental relation, or unaccompanied youth declines to complete the Enrollment Form - Residency Questionnaire, the LEA should note on the form that the parent, person in parental relation, or unaccompanied youth declined to provide the information requested.

Completing the Form

If a parent, person in parental relation, or unaccompanied youth enrolling in school indicates that a student is living in one of the five temporary housing arrangements, the school may not require proof to verify where the student is living before enrolling the student. The five temporary housing arrangements are listed below:

1. In a shelter,
2. With another family or other person (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up"),
3. In a hotel/motel,
4. In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite, or
5. Other temporary living situation.

After the student is enrolled and attending classes, the school or LEA is permitted to verify the student's housing arrangements. However, the student must first be enrolled in school. Again, LEAs **cannot not contact a landlord or building superintendent** to verify a student's housing status. (See above for more information.)

Definitions of Temporary Housing Arrangements

"With another family or other person" (also referred to as "doubled-up")

LEAs should be aware that students who are sharing the housing of others are eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act and State law, if sharing housing is due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

"Other temporary living situation"

In addition to the four examples of temporary housing, students who lack a "fixed, adequate, and regular" nighttime residence are also covered as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act and State law. This may include unaccompanied youth who have fled their homes or were forced to leave their homes and who do not otherwise meet the definition of "doubled-up."

"In permanent housing"

Permanent housing means that the student's living arrangements are "fixed, regular, and adequate."

Next Steps for LEAs with Students Living in Temporary Housing Arrangements

If the parent, person in parental relation, or unaccompanied youth indicates that a student is living in temporary housing, the LEA must complete a Designation Form. If the LEA believes additional information is needed before reaching a final decision on the student's eligibility under McKinney-Vento, enrollment should not be delayed and a Designation Form should still be filled out. For more information about determining eligibility see the National Center on Homeless Education's Determining Eligibility Brief, available at: www.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf

If a student who is identified as homeless was last permanently housed in a different school district, the district of attendance/local district will be eligible for tuition reimbursement from SED for the cost of educating the student. School districts should complete a STAC-202 form if eligible for tuition reimbursement. For more information about STAC-202 forms contact the STAC Office at 518-474-7116 or NYS-TEACHS at 800-388-2014.

SUBJECT: EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The parent/person in parental relation to a homeless child; or the homeless child, together with the homeless liaison designated by the District in the case of an unaccompanied youth; or the director of a residential program for runaway and homeless youth established pursuant to Executive Law Article 19-H, in consultation with the homeless child, where such homeless child is living in such program, may designate either the school district of current location, the school district of origin, or a school district participating in a regional placement plan as the district the homeless child shall attend.

Pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations, a "homeless child" means a child or youth who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including a child who is:

- a) Sharing the housing of other persons due to a loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- b) Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- c) Abandoned in hospitals;
- d) Awaiting foster care placement; or
- e) A migratory child who qualifies as homeless in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations. As defined in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the term "migratory child" *includes* a child who is, or whose parent or spouse is, a migratory agricultural worker, including a migratory dairy worker, or a migratory fisher, and who has moved from one school district to another in the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain, or accompanies such parent or spouse in order to obtain, temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work.
- f) A child or youth who has a primary nighttime location that is:
 1. A supervised, publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations including, but not limited to, shelters operated or approved by the state or local department of social services, and residential programs for runaway and homeless youth established pursuant to Executive Law Article 19-H; or
 2. A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; including a child or youth who is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station or similar setting.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH (Cont'd.)

- g) Considered an "unaccompanied youth":
1. An unaccompanied youth is a homeless child (for whom no parent or person in parental relation is available) or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.
 2. An unaccompanied youth **shall not include** a child or youth who is residing with someone other than a parent or legal guardian for the sole reason of taking advantage of the schools of the district.

The term "**homeless child**" **shall not include** a child in foster care or receiving educational services pursuant to Education Law Sections 3202(4), (5), (6), (6a) or (7) or pursuant to Articles 81, 85, 87 or 88. For example, a child in a family home at board, a school for the mentally retarded, a hospital or other institution for the care, custody and treatment of children; youths under the direction of the Division for Youth incarcerated in county correctional facilities or youth shelters; or children residing in child care institutions or schools for the deaf or blind would not be considered "homeless."

Enrollment, Retention and Participation in the Educational Program

Enrollment of homeless children shall not be delayed and their ability to continue or participate in the educational program shall not be restricted due to issues such as:

- a) Transportation;
- b) Immunization requirements;
- c) Residency requirements;
- d) Birth certificates, medical records, individualized education programs, school records and other documentation;
- e) Guardianship issues;
- f) Comprehensive assessment and advocacy referral processes;
- g) Resolution of disputes regarding school selection;
- h) Proof of social security numbers;
- i) Attendance requirements;
- j) Sports participation rules;

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SUBJECT: EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH (Cont'd.)

- k) Inability to pay fees associated with extracurricular activities such as club dues and sports uniforms; or
- l) Other enrollment issues.

Educational Programs and Services

The District shall provide homeless children and youth with access to all of its programs, activities and services to the same extent that they are provided to resident students.

Homeless children and youth shall be educated as part of the District's regular academic program. Services shall be provided to homeless children and youth through programs and mechanisms that integrate homeless children and youth with their non-homeless counterparts, including programs for special education, vocational and technical education, gifted and talented students, before and after school, English language learners/limited English proficiency, Head Start, Even Start, and school nutrition. Services provided with McKinney-Vento funds shall expand upon or improve services provided as part of the regular school program. Consequently, the District shall ensure that homeless children and youth are not segregated in a separate school, or in a separate program within the school, based on their status as homeless; and to the extent feasible consistent with the requirements of Commissioner's Regulations, keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian. Further, the District shall review and revise policies and practices, including transportation guidelines, that may act as barriers to the enrollment, attendance, school success, and retention of homeless children and youth in the District.

All homeless children and youth are automatically eligible for Title I Part A services whether or not they meet the academic standards or live in a Title I school attendance area. Homeless students may receive Title I educational or support services from schoolwide and targeted-assistance school programs.

Transportation

If the local social service district or the Office of Children and Family Services is not required to provide transportation, the designated district is responsible for the provision and the cost of the student's transportation. Where a homeless student designates the school district of current location as the district the student shall attend, then that district shall provide transportation to the student on the same basis as a resident student. Where the homeless student designates the school district of origin or a school district participating in a regional placement plan, then that district shall provide transportation to and from the homeless child's temporary housing and school.

Transportation responsibilities apply to all school districts regardless of whether or not they receive McKinney-Vento funds. Transportation shall be provided during the pendency of enrollment disputes. If the designated district provides transportation for non-homeless preschool children, it shall also provide comparable transportation services for homeless preschool children.

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SUBJECT: EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH (Cont'd.)**District Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth**

The District shall designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other federal programs, as the local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the duties as enumerated in law, Commissioner's Regulations and applicable guidance issued by the U.S. and New York State Education Departments. The District shall inform school personnel, local service providers and advocates of the office and duties of the local homeless liaison.

Training

The District shall train all school enrollment staff, secretaries, school counselors, school social workers, and principals on the legal requirements for enrollment. School nutrition staff, school registered professional nurses, teachers, and bus drivers shall be provided with information on homelessness that is specific to their field.

Outreach

The District shall make every effort to inform the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth of the education, transportation and related opportunities available to their children including transportation to the school of origin. The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be assisted in accessing transportation to the school they select, and shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. Public notice of educational rights of homeless children and youth shall be disseminated by the District in places where families and youth are likely to be present (e.g., schools, shelters, soup kitchens), and in comprehensible formats (e.g., geared for low literacy or other community needs).

Dispute Resolution

The District shall establish guidelines for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding school selection or enrollment of a homeless student and provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal to the parent or guardian if the District sends the student to a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian.

If there is a factual dispute over whether a student is homeless, the District shall immediately enroll the student and then provide the parent/guardian the opportunity to submit verification of homelessness. The student shall remain enrolled until a final determination is made by the District and for a minimum of thirty (30) days after the final determination to allow the parent/guardian opportunity to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. If the student files an appeal that contains a request for a stay within thirty (30) days of such final determination, the District shall continue to enroll the student until the Commissioner rules on the stay request.

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POLICY

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Students

SUBJECT: EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH (Cont'd.)

Record and Reporting Requirements

If the District, as the school district of origin, receives a request to forward student records to a receiving district, the records shall be forwarded within five (5) days.

The District shall maintain documentation regarding all aspects of the District's contact with and services provided to homeless students and youth for possible on-site monitoring by the State Education Department.

The District shall collect and transmit to the Commissioner of Education, at such time and in the manner as the Commissioner may require, a report containing such information as the Commissioner determines is necessary to assess the educational needs of homeless children and youths within the state.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 42 United States Code (USC) Section 11431 et seq.
Education Law Sections 902(b) and 3209
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 100.2(x)

Adopted: 6/19/12