



# ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

# AGENDA

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- Elder Population
- F.S. § 415
- Definitions
- Investigative Process
- What You Can Expect
- Services

# ELDER POPULATION

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- Florida has the highest proportion of residents aged 60 and older in the nation, comprising 21.6% of the state population, nearly 4.9 million citizens.
- Growth among elder Floridians is expected to continue, with those 60 and older comprising over 32% of the population within 20 years.
- The largest population percentage increase is in those ages 75-85

Source:

\*U.S. Census Bureau 2023 and Florida Department of Economic and Demographic Research 2023

# ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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## Florida Statute §415:

- Recognizes there are vulnerable adults unable to care for and/or protect themselves
- Provides for detection and correction of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Places the fewest possible restrictions on personal liberties when providing protection and assistance from abuse, neglect, or exploitation

# VULNERABLE ADULT

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By definition a vulnerable adult is an individual 18 years or older whose:

- Ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for his or her own care or protection is impaired due to a *mental, emotional, sensory, long-term physical, or developmental disability or dysfunction, brain damage, or the infirmities of aging*

# TO BE **VULNERABLE** OR NOT TO BE **VULNERABLE?**

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## **LONG TERM**

- PHYSICAL
- MENTAL
- EMOTIONAL
- SENSORY
- INFIRMITIES OF AGING



ALL MAKE SOMEONE VULNERABLE

**ONLY IF**

THEY PREVENT SOMEONE FROM COMPLETING THEIR ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

**OR**

PROVIDING FOR THEIR CARE AND PROTECTION

# ABUSE

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- Willful act or threatened act by a **relative, caregiver, or household member**
- Causes or is likely to cause significant physical, mental, or emotional impairment



# NEGLECT

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- Failure or omission by an **agreed upon caregiver** to provide care, supervision, and/or services necessary to maintain the health of a vulnerable adult.
- Failure to protect the vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect, or exploitation by others

# EXPLOITATION

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- **A person who stands in a position of trust and confidence OR a person who should know the vulnerable adult lacks the capacity to consent and by deception or intimidation...** obtains, uses or attempts to obtain or use a vulnerable adult's funds or assets for the benefit of someone other than the vulnerable adult

## Financial Signs of Elder Abuse



Fraudulent signatures  
on financial documents



Unpaid bills



Unusual or sudden changes  
in spending patterns, will, or  
other financial documents

# VULNERABLE ADULT IN NEED OF SERVICES (VAINS)

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- A vulnerable adult determined to be suffering from neglect not caused by a second party and in need of services to prevent further harm.



# ALLEGED PERPETRATORS (AP)

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- Abuse Investigations - the AP must be a caregiver, household member, or a relative
- Neglect Investigations - the AP must be in a caregiver role
- Exploitation Investigations - the AP must be in a position of trust and confidence -or- knows the vulnerable adult lacks capacity to consent.

# CAPACITY TO CONSENT

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- Sufficient understanding to make and communicate responsible decisions regarding person or property
- Orientation to person, place, and time
- Ability to make decisions about various facets of life

# CAPACITY TO CONSENT

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- Comprehension of own mental, physical, environmental limitations
- Knowledge of resources available
- Understanding of consequences
- Establishes authority to provide protective services and emergency services

# CAPACITY TO CONSENT

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Choosing to make poor choices  
while understanding the  
consequences, does **NOT**  
constitute a lack of capacity.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT & APS

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- Emergency Entry of Premises

If situation presents a risk of death or serious injury & consent is not obtained

- Emergency Removal from Premises

Victim lacks capacity to consent & is at immediate risk of death or serious injury



# INVESTIGATIONS

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*The Florida Abuse Hotline will accept a report for:*

- **A vulnerable adult located in Florida who is believed to have been abused, neglected or exploited in Florida**
- **or**
- **A person who may be a vulnerable adult who is in need of services**

*Florida Abuse Hotline:*  
**1.800.96.ABUSE**  
*(1.800.962.2873)*

# INVESTIGATIVE STEPS

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The Protective Investigator determines:

- Is someone a vulnerable adult per definition in FS § 415
- Capacity to Consent
- Does the AP meet statutory criteria for this role
- Safety/risk of the vulnerable adult
- Indications of A/N/E
- Determine intervention/services necessary to safeguard and ensure the vulnerable adult's well-being

# CLOSING THE INVESTIGATION

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- The investigation is completed, closed and locked by the Protective Investigator Supervisor within 60 days of the report.
- Notification is sent to the vulnerable adult, caregiver and/or guardian at the case closure.
- Subjects of the report may then request to review the report and investigation.

# REPORTER OF A/N/E

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Due to confidentiality details of the investigation are not shared with reporters

- As a reporter you can expect contact from the investigator
- As a source of information, you can expect collaboration with the investigator regarding needs and concern

# ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

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If you are named as an alleged perpetrator in an abuse, neglect or exploitation report you have the right to:

- Have an attorney present at your own expense
- Right to refuse an interview with the Investigator
- A copy of the final report without reporter information.

# SERVICE REFERRALS

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- Services enable individuals to live as safely as possible in the least restrictive setting
- APS Human Services Counselors to provide in home case management services
- Community based services for age group 60+ are provided by Senior Service Agencies subcontracted by Dept of Elder Affairs





# WHEN TO REPORT?



- F.S. § 415.1034, 1a - states, “anyone who knows, or has **reasonable** cause to suspect, that a vulnerable adult has been or is being abused, neglected, or exploited shall immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the central abuse hotline”.
- REASONABLE per Mr. Webster is “of sound judgement, fair and moderate”.





# REPORTING

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- Law, Chapter §415, requires the reporting of known or suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- Reports are accepted 24/7
- **1-800-96ABUSE**
- **ReportAbuse.dcf.state/fl/us**



# June 15<sup>th</sup>



**WORLD ELDER ABUSE  
AWARENESS DAY**

Building Strong Support for Elders

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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**DAVID KNAZUR**

ADULT PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATOR SUPERVISOR



DAVID.KNAZUR@MYFLFAMILIES.COM



(352) 266-4831



2804 MARC KNIGHTON CT  
LECANTO, FL 34461





**STUDENTS & FAMILIES IN  
TRANSITION  
(MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT)**

**FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

## Our team



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352-797-7070 x70410

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(High School Level)  
Kelly\_D3@hcsb.k12.fl.us  
352-797-7070 x70203

# The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is part of the No Child Left Behind Act, reauthorized under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015.

It provides legal protections ensuring that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education (enroll, attend and succeed), including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.





## Definition of Homelessness



Not all homeless people live in the woods, on the streets, or under a bridge. This limited definition does not align with the definition of homelessness according to the McKinney-Vento Act.

The term “Homeless Children and Youth” under the McKinney-Vento Act means:

Individuals who lack a Fixed, Regular, and Adequate Nighttime Residence



# Definition of Homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act



- Living in an emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, or transitional housing
- Living in a motel/ hotel, AirBNB, trailer park or campground
- Living in a car, park, tent, public place (storage unit), bus or train station
- Living in an abandoned building, or other structure not meant for housing (substandard)
- Doubled up due to economic hardship/loss of housing



# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



According to the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act, unaccompanied homeless youth are children or youth (can be of any age) who are not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian and meet the definition of homeless. They may be in kinship or friendship care.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth are often high school aged students that have been:

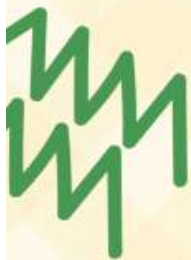
- Kicked out of their home
- Have chosen to leave dangerous or unsupportive situations
- Have been separated from a parent due to:
  - Parental incarceration
  - Hospitalization
  - Illness or death



# Why are Children and youth homeless?



- Economic Crisis
- Lack of affordable housing
- Home foreclosures
- Eviction
- Disasters (hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, other natural disasters, man-made disasters)
- Family change such as divorce, separation or death
- Health problems, addiction, PTSD and unpaid medical bills
- Domestic violence
- Physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect
- Deep poverty



# Requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act

## Immediate Enrollment

Even when lacking proof of residency, guardianship, birth certificate, school records or other documents, medical records or required dress code items.

\* "Enrollment" includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities.\*





## Unaccompanied Homeless Youth And Certified Unaccompanied Youth (Ages 16+)

- Unaccompanied homeless youth shall be immediately enrolled without proof of guardianship [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(H)(iv)]
- There are three common methods for enrolling unaccompanied homeless students:
  - the student enrolls him or herself,
  - a caregiver enrolls the student, or
  - the local liaison enrolls the student



• A school district cannot require a caregiver to obtain legal guardianship at any point prior to or following an unaccompanied homeless student's enrollment. A school district also cannot discontinue a student's enrollment due to an inability to identify a caregiver, guardian, or parent following enrollment or an inability to produce guardianship or other paperwork.



# What services do we provide?

Students in Transition can receive assistance with:

- backpacks
  - school supplies
    - uniforms
  - regular school clothing (for non-uniform schools)
    - shoes & socks
    - underwear
    - toiletries
  - tents/blankets/sheets/towels
    - air mattresses
    - academic fees
- (on a case-by-case basis, depending on availability)
- extracurricular fees
- (on a case-by-case basis, depending on availability)
- absence/tardy excusal



Students in transition have the right to equal access to extracurricular activities including, but not limited to:

- Student government
- Honor societies
- Clubs
- Band
- Choir
- Field trips
- Athletics

MKV requires the removal of barriers to participation which can include the waiving of activity fees and deadlines for participation.

## Requirements

# Distribution of SFIT Brochures, Posters, Flyers

## MCKINNEY-VENTO

PARENT GUIDE/GUIA PARA PADRES

**Do you live with another family or family members due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason?**

**¿Vive usted o sus hijos con otros miembros de su familia o con otra familia porque perdieron su vivienda o por dificultades económicas o una razón similar?**

**Are you and your child living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, parking grounds, garage, car or public area due to the lack of alternative housing and financial hardships?**

**¿Vive usted o sus hijos en un motel, hotel, trailer, terreno para camión, sótano(s) o área pública debido a la falta de opciones de vivienda y dificultades financieras?**

Additional school resources and family support is available for families who qualify. Services may include: school enrollment, school clothing/uniforms, school supplies, toiletries, educational transportation assistance, and community resources.

Recursos escolares adicionales y apoyo familiar están disponibles para las familias que califican. Los servicios pueden incluir: inscripción escolar, ropa/uniformes escolares, útiles escolares, artículos de higiene, asistencia con transporte educativo y recursos comunitarios.

For more information call:  
(352) 797-7070 ext. 70291 or 70201

**HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Para más información llame al:  
(352) 797-7070 ext. 70291 or 70201

**Do you live at a temporary address?**

**Have you recently been evicted or lost your home to foreclosure?**

**Are you a youth living on your own without a parent or legal guardian?**

**If so, our team can help!**

**CONTACT YOUR MCKINNEY-VENTO TEAM**  
(352) 797-7070

Accompanied Socialists ext. 70291 or 70201  
High School Intervention/Health Specialists ext. 70201

Scan Here for mobile information

**The Student and Families in Transition Program**

**Services Provided:**

- Emergency Enrollment
- Physical/Transportation Vouchers
- Backpacks
- School Supplies
- Uniforms
- Toiletries
- Academic Fees
- Enrollment/Other Activity Fees
- Resource Referral/Referrals
- Transportation to School of Origin (if feasible)
- School of Origin Rights (the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or where last enrolled)

Students who qualify will be allowed to enroll in school without the usual documents such as: Proof of Residence, Immunization Records, Birth Certificate, and other documents as required by the state.

**What is the McKinney-Vento Act?**

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law which provides educational support for students experiencing homelessness.

**Scan QR Code and fill out the Student Housing Questionnaire to see if you qualify.**

**Our Mission:**  
To provide stability for all students in Transition for 1 Year.

## The Students and Families in Transition Program

**DO YOU LIVE AT A TEMPORARY ADDRESS?**

You may have important school rights that you might not know about.

**Have you heard about the McKinney-Vento Act?**

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law which provides educational support for students experiencing homelessness.

**Have you recently been displaced from your home?**

The definition of "homeless" includes living situations where a student may be staying in: a shelter, hotel/motel, vehicle, substandard housing or even doubled up living with friends or relatives (due to loss of housing or financial hardship).

**Did you know that our program can provide students with services?**

Some of those services include assistance with enrollment, transportation, school of origin rights, backpacks, school supplies, toiletries, uniforms and much more.

**Want to know if you qualify?**

Scan the QR Code and fill out the questionnaire

Spanish  
Arabic  
Haitian  
Korean  
Vietnamese

English  
Spanish  
Haitian  
Korean  
Vietnamese

**Contact your McKinney-Vento Team**

(352) 797-7070 ext. 70291 or 70201

**HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\*We are an academic based program and do not provide housing\*

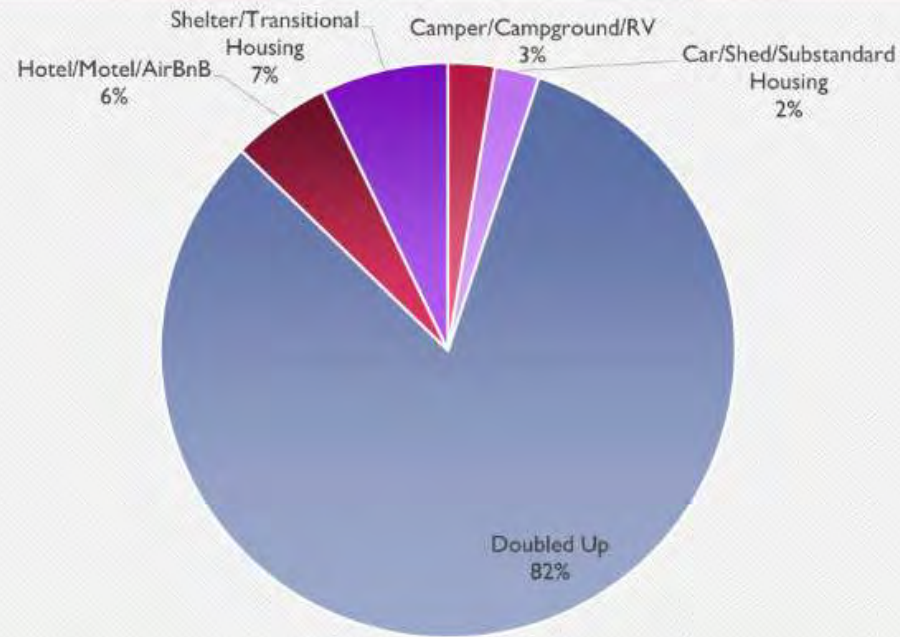
# HERNANDO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 STUDENTS & FAMILIES IN TRANSITION 798 TOTAL

798 Students Identified

88 Unaccompanied Youth

Of those 88 UY

\*39 are Unaccompanied HS Youth





## Parents and Kids talk about Homelessness Video

<https://youtu.be/CX4TzWdDAFY?si=g-h9SzVgDjT1npBs>

# Referral Process



Referral Forms

**Student Housing Questionnaire**

This questionnaire is intended to address the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Part 2. The parent or guardian (below) will assist you in completing this document to help identify the student's educational support services (including transportation, counseling, academic, behavioral, language, healthcare, etc.). <https://www.hernandoschools.org> (Please Use English) For more information please see separate parent letter and website.

1. How many children/adolescents are in your household (over 18 not included in school)?

2. Name of Student(s) (Include in School (HS, grade 10) and no resident in school - including those ages 14-18 located out-of-state please document):

First Name	Last Name	Grade	Sex	Student ID Number
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____

3. Parents, Guardians, or Unaccompanied Youth's Name (Print):

- a. Street Address (Complete if Street): \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Length of Stay at this Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned certifies that the information provided is accurate.

Parent's, Guardian's, or Unaccompanied Youth's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please list all other students living in your home "Over 18" or "Not":

Student Name	Grade	Sex	Student ID Number
____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____

5. Transportation: How does the student(s) get to school? (Check all that apply)

Mode of Transportation	Frequency
1. Personal Vehicle	____
2. School Bus	____
3. Public Transportation	____
4. Family Member	____
5. Other (Specify): _____	____

Call or Email



Website



<https://www.hernandoschools.org/students-families-in-transition-hom>

Distribute Brochures and Flyers





# Neighboring Homeless Liaisons



## Citrus County:

Nichelle Mohre-Cassidy  
McKinney-Vento TOSA  
District Student Services, Citrus Schools  
2575 Panther Pride Dr.  
Lecanto, FL 34461  
(352) 527-0090 x.6312 office  
(352) 587-5155 Cell

<https://www.citruschools.org/mckinney-vento>

## Sumter County:

Lisa Melendez  
Social Worker/District Families in Transition  
Liaison  
(352) 793-2315 x50237 office

<https://www.sumter.k12.fl.us/student-services-home>

## Pasco County:

Kimberly Natal  
Program Coordinator SIT, Home Ed, Private Schools  
Office of Innovation, Advanced Studies and Choice  
813-794-2644

Cristal Olivera  
Resource Teacher, Students in Transition (SIT)  
Office of Innovation, Advanced Studies and Choice  
813-794-2780

Judy Scavino  
Graduation Enhancement Coordinator  
Students In Transition Program (SIT)  
Office of Innovation, Advanced Studies and Choice  
Google Voice: 813-738-3376  
SIT Program Office: 813-794-2262  
Pasco County Schools

<https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/sit/>

## Polk County:

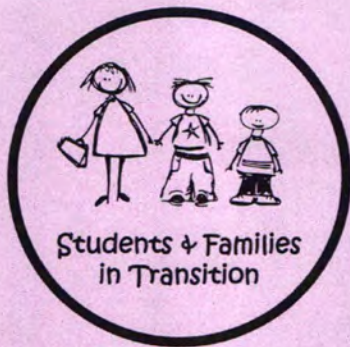
Ben Ruch | Homeless Liaison  
Federal Programs | The Hearth  
Project | Polk County Public  
Schools  
1915 S. Floral Avenue, Bartow, FL  
33830  
T: 863.457.4709 x683 | F:  
863.534.0210 |  
[polkschoolsfl.com/hearth](http://polkschoolsfl.com/hearth)

<https://www.polkschoolsfl.com/schoolsandprograms/hearth>





THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR TIME! WE  
LOOK FORWARD TO  
COLLABORATING  
WITH YOU



# MCKINNEY-VENTO

## PARENT GUIDE/GUIA PARA PADRES



Do you live with another family or family members due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason?

¿Vive usted o sus hijos con otros miembros de su familia o con otra familia porque perdieron su vivienda por dificultades económicas o una razón similar?



Are you and your child living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, camping grounds, garage, car or public area due to the lack of alternative housing and financial hardships?

¿Vive usted o sus hijos en un motel, hotel, tráiler, terreno para acampar, automóvil o área pública debido a la falta de opciones de vivienda y dificultades financieras?

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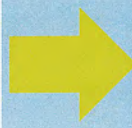
Students and Families in Transition Website



SCAN QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION  
(Download QR Scanner)



Learn more about the McKinney-Vento Program



Student Housing Questionnaire  
\*Complete digital form\*





## Servicios Previsto:

- Matricula Inmediata
- Comprobate para Físicos/Vacunas
- Mochilas
- Materiales Escolares
- Uniformes
- Artículos de Higiene
- Tarifas Académicas
- Tarifas de Actividades Extracurriculas
- Información de Recursos
- Transporte a la Escuela de Origen (si es factible)
- Derechos de la Escuela de Origen (la escuela a la que asistía el niño o joven cuando tenía una vivienda permanente o donde se matriculó por última vez)

Los estudiantes que cualifiquen podrán matricularse en la escuela sin los documentos usuales, tales como:

Evidencia de Residencia  
Registros de Vacunas  
Certificado de Nacimiento

Registros escolares y/o documentos legales de tutor



## ¿Qué es la Ley McKinney-Vento?

La Ley McKinney-Vento es una ley federal que brinda apoyo educativo a los estudiantes sin hogar.



Escanee el código QR y complete el Cuestionario de Vivienda para Estudiantes para ver si cualifica

Nuestra misión:  
Proveer estabilidad a 1 estudiante en 1 escuela por 1 año



¿Vive en una dirección temporal?

¿Ha sido desalojado recientemente o ha perdido su hogar a juicio hipotecario?

¿Es usted un joven que vive solo sin un padre o tutor legal?

Si es así, nuestro equipo puede ayudar!



**COMUNÍQUESE CON SU ENLACE  
DE MCKINNEY-VENTO  
(352) 797-7070**

Especialista  
ext. 70291 or 70201

Especialista en Juventud no  
Acompañada en la Escuela  
Secundaria  
ext. 70203

Escanee aquí  
para obtener  
información del  
sitio web



**El Programa de  
Estudiantes y  
Familias en  
Transición**



**HERNANDO  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Learn it. Love it. Live it.

**\*SOMOS UN PROGRAMA ACADÉMICO Y NO  
PROVEEMOS VIVIENDA\***

\*De conformidad con la Ley de asistencia para  
personas sin hogar de McKinney-Vento\*



## What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law which provides educational support for students experiencing homelessness.

## Services Provided:

- Immediate Enrollment
- Physical/Immunization Vouchers
- Backpacks
- School Supplies
- Uniforms
- Toiletries
- Academic Fees
- Extracurricular Activity Fees
- Resource Information
- Transportation to School of Origin (if feasible)
- School of Origin Rights (*the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or where last enrolled*)

Students who qualify will be allowed to enroll in school without the usual documents such as:

Proof of Residency

Immunization Records

Birth Certificate

School records and/or legal guardianship papers



Scan QR Code and fill out the Student Housing Questionnaire to see if you qualify

Our Mission:  
To provide stability for  
1 Student in 1 School for 1 Year



Do you live at a temporary address?

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Are you a youth living on your own without a parent or legal guardian?

If so, our team can help!



**CONTACT YOUR  
MCKINNEY-VENTO TEAM  
(352) 797-7070**

Accompanied Specialists  
ext. 70291 or 70201

High School Unaccompanied  
Youth Specialist  
ext. 70203

Scan here for  
website  
information



The  
Student and Families  
in Transition  
Program



**HERNANDO  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Learn it. Love it. Live it.

**\*WE ARE AN ACADEMIC BASED PROGRAM AND  
DO NOT PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE\***

\*In compliance with the McKinney-Vento  
Homeless Assistance Act\*