



**Washington Montessori**

**Public Charter School**

2330 Old Bath Hwy.

Washington, NC 27889

Phone: (252) 946-1977 Fax: (252) 946-5938

[www.wmpcs.org](http://www.wmpcs.org)

## Homeless Program

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC §§11431-11435, 2001) is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. It defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospital
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc.)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

An unaccompanied homeless youth is a youth who meets the definitions of unaccompanied youth and homeless included in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Act defines unaccompanied youth as, "a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian" (42 USC §11434a(6), 2001). This means that the youth is not living with a parent or guardian, and includes youth who are residing with a caregiver who does not have legal guardianship and youth who are living on their own.

The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to enroll homeless children and youth immediately, even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence. The act ensures that homeless children and youth have transportation to and from their school of origin if it is in the child's or youth's best interest.

**Washington Montessori Public Charter School**

*Guiding students to reach their full potential*

*from Children's House to High School*

Local school districts must designate a homeless liaison to ensure that homeless children and youth are identified and served. The liaison must provide information to homeless families and facilitate access to school services including transportation. School districts are also required to track their homeless students and report that data annually to the State and Federal Government. We submit our Homeless counts in June each year. The counts for the North Carolina and Nation homeless can be located on the below websites:

<https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/nc/>

<https://nche.ed.gov/data-and-stats/>

---

**Washington Montessori Public Charter School Liaison**

Carol L. Collier, Administrative Assistant

(252) 945-1977 ext. 1110 / [carol.collier@wmpes.org](mailto:carol.collier@wmpes.org)

---

[Information for School-Aged Youth Información para los Jóvenes de Edad Escolar](#)

[North Carolina Homeless Education Program – Dedicated to ensuring all children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to the public education to which they are entitled.](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)



**Washington Montessori Public Charter School**

*Guiding students to reach their full potential  
from Children's House to High School*