



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education *CRJ*

DATE: March 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Displaced Children from Ukraine

In the wake of the war in Ukraine, children and youth may be arriving in Connecticut to reside with relatives or friends in a safe place with or without their parents. These students will likely be qualified as homeless children and youth under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, defined as “children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing.” Such children and youth must be provided the rights and services guaranteed to them by law. Students may likely arrive without school or health records, and it may not be possible to obtain records from their previous schools.

School is a place of stability, normalcy and support for all children who have lost their home, especially those suffering from traumatic experiences such as war. The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. In consultation with designated local McKinney-Vento liaisons, we are asking districts to revisit their registration process and enrollment protocols to ensure they are aligned with the state and federal laws to make certain that any student arriving from Ukraine has immediate access to school and the services that they need.

Additionally, district personnel should be reminded of the immediate enrollment provisions of the law and assist in providing an appropriate placement in school. All students considered homeless, automatically qualify to receive free school meals and must also be provided with health and other related services necessary to ensure their academic success. See: [Homeless-Education and Related-Resources](#) for more information.

Please ensure that all students identified as homeless are consistently and accurately reported in the statewide public school information system (PSIS). District homeless education liaisons and other school personnel who have identified a student as homeless must routinely provide the PSIS district coordinator with relevant information regarding the homeless status of a student and their primary nighttime residence.

Thank you for all your assistance in helping families achieve some stability for school age children who have been displaced. For additional assistance related to McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please contact Louis Tallarita at (860) 807-2058 or [louis.tallarita@ct.gov](mailto:louis.tallarita@ct.gov).