

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

Putnam County School District complies with federal laws protecting the educational rights of homeless children and unaccompanied youth through the Project PRAISE.

Project PRAISE stands for “Providing Requisite Academic and Instructional Services Equitably”. This program, under the Federal Programs Department of the District, assures that the school system is compliant with the McKinney-Vento Act for homeless and unaccompanied youth attending our public schools.

Who is considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act?

Any school aged child who “lacks a fixed, adequate place for sleeping”, may be considered eligible for McKinney-Vento Services. These situations include:

- *Living in a shelter.*
- *Staying in a motel or campground due to lack of an alternative adequate accommodation.*
- *Living in a car, park or abandoned building.*
- *Doubled up with other people due to a loss of housing or economic hardship.*

If you have a student that is currently living in one of the above situations, you may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. These rights include:

- *Receive a free, appropriate public education.*
- **Enroll in school immediately, even lacking documents normally required for enrollment and registration. These documents include not having photo ID, birth certificates, social security cards, immunization forms, school physicals, documentation of housing location and parental guardianship.**
- **Enroll in school and attend classes while those documents are obtained.**
- *Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students according to the students’ needs.*
- *The McKinney-Vento Act also has provisions for keeping homeless children in their home school when they have to move.*

If you believe your student may be eligible, contact the Project PRAISE office to find out what services and supports may be available to you.

386-329-0543

The following links will also provide you with additional information:

Putnam County School District board policy on homeless students and unaccompanied youth: (insert link to board policy 5111.1)

Florida Department of Education website: www.fl DOE.org/bsa/title1/titlex.asp

National Center for Homeless Education: www.serve.org/nche

Department of Children and Families homeless resource website:
www.dcf.state.fl.us/homelessness

Florida Coalition for the Homeless: www.fchonline.org

National Coalition for the Homeless: www.nationalhomeless.org

Project PRAISE provides eligible students and their parent or guardian with resources to help eligible students to successful in school.

These resources include:

- Help families get students enrolled in school.
- Help students get necessary forms and papers to enroll; including birth certificates, school physicals and school records.
- Help students get necessary school supplies to start school.
- Provide referrals for medical, dental and vision needs of PRAISE students.
- Provide parents with information about school.
- Provide parents with resources to attend meetings at school and help parents participate fully in their students' education.
- Provide after-school tutoring to struggling students.
- Offer summer enrichment programs for PRAISE students.
- Provide referrals to community partners that can help with needs outside the scope of the educational homeless grant.

Project PRAISE serves students in all schools within the Putnam County School District.

Eligibility is determined by Project PRAISE staff after a student, parent or guardian completes a residency questionnaire and submits it to the school or the Federal Programs Office. Please contact your school for a questionnaire, or you may contact Project PRAISE staff directly at the Federal Programs Office, 1416 McClellan Street, Palatka, Florida 32177.

Phone: 386-329-0543

Additional attachments:
Residency questionnaire
Brochure

2015-2016
PROJECT PRAISE
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

By completing this questionnaire, you help our school district comply with the McKinney-Vento Act, Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act. Your truthful and accurate answers help the district identify services that a student may be eligible to receive.

School _____ Grade _____

Student's Name _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Date of Birth (M/D/Yr) _____ Age _____ Male ____ Female ____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone Number _____

1. Where is the student living now? (check one)
 in a house/apartment/ mobile home in a shelter
 in a tent/camper in a motel/hotel in a car other
Explain: _____

2. Student stays with :
 a single family more than one family in a home

3. Please check **all persons** that are staying in same home
 grandparent other relative (aunt/uncle/adult relative) adult not related to student
 court appointed foster parent mother father other (list)

4. Please list any additional school age children living at this location:

5. Does the living arrangement checked above result from a loss of income, eviction, foreclosure, or other loss of housing such as fire?
 yes no

6. How long has this living situation existed? _____

7. If you are not the birth parent, do you have legal guardianship for this student? _____

8. Have you been given custody/guardianship from a court or DCF/HRS? _____yes _____no

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL PROJECT PRAISE AT 329-0543

PROJECT PRAISE STAFF ONLY

Student # _____
 Added _____ Removed _____
 Date: _____

_____ Student not covered by McKinney-Vento Act by: _____

_____ Student covered by McKinney-Vento Act Code _____
 (Contact person who verified data)

S/BP	
S/C//S	
SOO	
B/T	
BC/Rec.	
ESE	
Ret.	
Tut	

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in all schools within the
Putnam County School System.**

**Eligibility is determined by
Project PRAISE staff after a
student, parent or guardian
completes a residency
questionnaire and submits it to
the Federal Programs Office or
the school.**

**Contact your school for a
questionnaire, or you may
contact Project PRAISE staff
directly at the Federal
Programs Office.**

1416 McClellan Street

Palatka, Florida

(behind Moseley Elementary)

386-329-0543



**Project
PRAISE**

**Elementary Liaison:
Courtney Carter**

**Middle/High Liaison:
Brad Skelton**

386-329-0543

**Educational
Services for
Homeless Children
& Youth Attending
Putnam County
Schools**

Project PRAISE

What IS Project PRAISE ?

Project PRAISE serves the students enrolled in the Putnam County School District who are eligible for services through the McKinney Vento Act.

The McKinney Vento Act guarantees certain rights for educational services to students who are experiencing homeless situations.

Who is Considered Homeless?

A student is considered to be homeless if they lack a fixed adequate place for sleeping.

This would include:

- Students living in shelters, campgrounds, hotels, motels.
- Students living with other families temporarily because of a loss of housing or an economic hardship.

Project PRAISE Offers Enrollment Assistance for Students

- Help students and families get enrolled in school.
- Help students get necessary forms, papers to enroll.
- Help students secure necessary school supplies to start school.
- Help students secure transportation to and from school.

Project PRAISE Offers Academic Support Services for Students

- After-school tutoring for struggling students.
- Summer enrichment programs.
- School, Students and Parental support for securing additional educational services

Project PRAISE Offers

Community Support

- Medical Referrals
- Dental Referrals
- Vision Screenings
- Diagnostic Services
- Counseling
- Emergency Services

