

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-125—HB 5259

Housing Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN
AND YOUTH**

SUMMARY: State law specifically requires boards of education to provide educational services to homeless children and young people in keeping with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (see BACKGROUND). This act maintains this requirement but specifies that these services must be provided according to this federal law as it was on December 23, 2022.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Originally enacted in 1987, the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires states to ensure that each homeless child and homeless young person has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children. This includes requiring states to ensure that their school district residency laws do not create obstacles for homeless students to attend school (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.).

Federal law defines “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes those sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, among others (42 U.S.C. § 11434a).