



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

McKinney-Vento Program

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

(503) 916- 5770

Portland Public Schools McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process

- 1) If a parent or student does not agree with a determination that a referred student does not qualify for the program, the parent or student may dispute that decision. Additionally, the parent or student may dispute the school placement determination for a child that does qualify under McKinney-Vento.
- 2) Every effort is made to keep McKinney-Vento qualified students in their “school of origin” when they are displaced away from the school due to homelessness. Per M-V, that is always the starting default unless it is not feasible, not in the student’s best interest, or the parent does not want that.
- 3) If remaining in or returning to the school of origin is not feasible, then students are usually, with rare exception, enrolled at the neighborhood school that corresponds to the address of where a student is currently staying in a McKinney-Vento qualifying living situation.
- 4) Exceptions might be made for safety issues related to domestic violence, special education needs, language needs, or other compelling reasons that would be deemed to be in the “student’s best interest”. Exceptions are not made simply for student or parent choice without a justifiable compelling reason.
- 5) If a parent, or unaccompanied homeless student, does not agree with the school placement, the McKinney-Vento Program Lead Liaison will explain, with translation assistance if needed, the decision verbally to the parent. They will also provide the parent with the dispute letter that documents the reason for the placement and informs the parent of their right to appeal the decision. The letter also explains how to start that process and the correct contact person.
- 6) If a parent or student then wishes to appeal the decision, they will first contact the McKinney-Vento Lead Liaison. If a resolution is not reached, it goes to the Funded Programs Director. The director will collect relevant information from the parent, student, lead liaison, school liaison, school and/or district staff, etc. and make a decision.
- 7) Per M-V law, the child may enroll at the requested school during the appeal process with the understanding that the enrollment could be revoked depending upon the outcome of the appeal.
- 8) If the parent (or student) is not satisfied with the outcome of the appeal, they may contact the state McKinney-Vento Coordinator.