



#047-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #047-22**

DATE: February 25, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Updated Information Regarding McKinney-Vento Services for Afghan Evacuees**

This memo provides an update to Superintendent's Memo #283-21, which provided information to assist school divisions with enrollment requirements for students who are Afghan refugees.

This month, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) emailed McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Coordinators, which included a copy of the [Information Regarding Serving Students Who are Afghan Evacuees Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) memo. Of note, the email states, "Children and youths who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are eligible to receive services under title VI, subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Act. Because the Act identifies students living in hotels as eligible for services, and we understand that many Afghan evacuees have been temporarily resettled in hotels, they would therefore qualify for services under the statute." Please note that living in a motel must meet the definition noted in the USDOE memo, which states that living in a motel must be "due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations."

This is a change from prior guidance. Therefore, families residing in hotels/motels in Virginia as part of their evacuation transition from Afghanistan should be identified as homeless and be provided McKinney-Vento rights including immediate enrollment and school stability in a

school of origin. School division homeless liaisons have received this revised guidance and should be contacted to assist these families appropriately. Other living arrangements for these families should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility for McKinney-Vento services.

For more information

Questions about eligibility under the *McKinney-Vento Act* can be directed to Dr. Patricia A. Popp, Virginia State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, at pxpopp@wm.edu.

JB/PAP/rt