

North Adams Public Schools  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Policies  
Dispute Resolutions

1. A student must be allowed to attend the school whose district is challenging the student's right to attend until the Commissioner of Education or his designee makes a final decision regarding the dispute. The challenging school must continue to provide transportation and other school services until the dispute is resolved.
2. The dispute resolution process begins at the time the school/district challenges the right of either a parent or guardian to enroll a child or to continue a child's enrollment in school, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth's right to enroll or continue enrollment in school.
3. *Steps for challenging enrollment:*
  - a. Provide notice of challenge to the district liaison and parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth using form "Homeless Advisory 2003-7A: School District Notification of Enrollment Decision"
  - b. Provide notice of the right to appeal the challenge to the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth using form "Homeless Advisory 2003-7B: Appeal of School District's Enrollment Decision" to be completed by the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth if they choose to appeal the decision.
  - c. Notify the DESE of the challenge on the day of the challenge and provide copies of all notices given to parent, guardian, unaccompanied youth.
4. The liaison will provide parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth with written notice in clear easy to understand language detailing the dispute resolution process. This will be translated upon request by an ELE parent/ELE liaison or unaccompanied youth. The form will list the option of obtaining independent information, listing Massachusetts Advocates for the Education of the Homeless Children and Youths (MAEHCY) contact information.
5. The school district has two working days to review the initial decision. At that time a determination will be made as to whether to pursue the challenge or not.
6. The final decision of the school district will be in writing by the Superintendent stating all the factual information upon which it is based and any legal basis in support.
7. If the district decision is different than the initial position, a copy of this decision must be sent to the DESE, liaison, and parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth on that same day.
8. The Commissioner has two working days from the receipt of the appeal to issue a decision. The commissioner's decision is final.