



2026 MCKINNEY-VENTO SCHOLARSHIP GUIDANCE

Many youth who face the challenges of homelessness encounter barriers that hinder the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education. Our goal is to help remove some of the barriers for those who have been eligible, or are currently eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

What is the NCSD McKinney-Vento Scholarship? This scholarship provides assistance to students who have been identified by the Nye County School District as homeless and have experienced homelessness while enrolled (past or present) in the Nye County School District. The funding for this scholarship is provided through the support of donations from various community organizations.

How are the recipients selected? Judges from communities of Nye County will score the applicant blindly (no names or personal information disclosed) based on the correct completion of the application, essay, letters of recommendation, school/community involvement, and scholastic achievement. The applicant with the highest score will be awarded the scholarship. In the event of a tie, the application received first will be awarded.

How many scholarships are awarded? The Nye County School District will award one \$2,000 scholarship to a qualified individual enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

How may the scholarship be used? This scholarship may be applied toward academic or vocational/technical education, (including students currently enrolled and continuing their education), to offset the cost of tuition, room and board, and/or required course materials. \$1,000 will be awarded for the first semester with the remaining \$1,000 award contingent upon the student maintaining a 2.60 GPA during the first semester. The award will be sent directly to the educational institution in which the student is enrolled. The funds will not be disbursed to the student by the Nye County School District.

Who is eligible for the scholarship? The individual must be currently or have been identified in the Nye County School District within the last **two** years for services under the McKinney-Vento Act. The federal McKinney-Vento Act defines a person who is homeless as one who “lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence”. This includes people living in shelters, cars, motels, campgrounds, or places not meant for human habitation, as well as children and youth who are living with friends or relatives temporarily because they lack permanent housing.

Applicants may be high school seniors, students enrolled in a GED or other alternative education program, or recent graduates/GED recipients. Individuals must be enrolled in or planning to enroll in an accredited educational or training institution as a full-time student. In the case of continuing education, the applicant must be enrolled as a part-time student with a degree declared. If not currently enrolled, proof of admission is required before scholarship is administered. Applicants may only be awarded the scholarship once.

How to apply?

Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Completed application.
2. A 500 - 1,000 word essay explaining how your life has been impacted by homelessness, the McKinney-Vento Program, and how education will influence your future.
3. An official or unofficial high school/college transcript, including class ranking (if available).
4. Two letters of recommendation from adults (not family members) who can verify the applicant's achievements, qualifications, and experiences.
5. SAT/ACT scores (if applicable for school entrance requirement) (copies acceptable).
6. Acceptance Agreement.

What are the criteria for reviewing the applications?

1. Evidence of commitment to education, extra-curricular activities, and school/community involvement during the experience of homelessness;
2. Academic accomplishments and attainment;
3. Potential outcomes as a result of receiving the scholarship;
4. How the student plans on utilizing the scholarship funds;
5. Student's future goals and plans as related to education and career interests; and
6. Correct usage of grammar and language.

The above criteria should be kept in mind when writing the essay and completing the application. The essay and letters of recommendation are the most important portions of the documents submitted.

Delivery Instructions:

1. Hand deliver, e-mail, or mail all required documents to:
Students in Transition Liaison Office
Nye County School District
484 So. West St.
Pahrump, NV 89048
ksmertz@nyeschools.org
2. If mailed, postmark must be on or before deadline date.
3. Call to verify receipt: 775-727-1875

To receive applications via email or fax, please contact Karen Mertz at 775-727-1875 or ksmertz@nyeschools.org

When is the deadline for the 2026 applications? Submissions must be received via mail, email, or hand delivery no later than 4:00 p.m. PST on Friday, April 17, 2026. Incomplete applications will not be considered.