



OREGON WILDFIRE FAQs FOR DISTRICTS

September 2020

1. Are students who have been displaced by wildfires eligible for McKinney-Vento (MV) services?

Yes. As MV-eligible students, they have the right to immediate enrollment at their school of origin or the school in the catchment area where they are currently located, without need for records from past schools, birth certificates, etc. The district to which a family or youth has been displaced should provide emergency services, supplies and internet connectivity, even if the student maintains enrollment (virtually or in person) in their school of origin. School of origin transportation is also required when school is in person. Only the enrolling district will count the student in the annual McKinney-Vento data collection.

2. Our district is tracking students displaced by fires for our records. Will ODE be collecting such data?

At this time, there are no instructions for districts to collect this data; however, it would be valuable to have for local grant writing and public information. Districts may wish to categorize their data on enrolled MV-eligible students into three parts: wildfire related, COVID-19 related, and other.

3. We anticipate increasing numbers of rental evictions in the coming months, due to loss of work. When a family knows that eviction is imminent, do we identify them as MV-eligible?

The standard for identification is that the student must currently be in a MV-eligible living situation (in shelter, unsheltered, motel/hotel, doubled-up), so Liaisons should wait until the family or youth is in such a situation before identifying them for MV services. Referrals should be made to local and state renter relief resources (e.g., [Oregon Housing & Community Services](#)). Even though a statewide moratorium on evictions may be in effect, some renters are in more informal situations that would not be covered.

4. What if a student and their family leave the state while they are displaced? Can they still attend school in Oregon?

Yes. Since displaced students are MV-eligible, they have the right to continued virtual instruction at this time, which will make it possible for students to continue Oregon enrollment over further distances than before. Alternately, a student who wishes to attend school in Oregon but has no history of school attendance in this state (i.e., no school of origin here) would need to pay out-of-state tuition in order to enroll.

5. What about students attending statewide virtual schools who have been displaced?

Such students are still enrolled at the virtual school they were attending. Their district of current residence can assist by providing connectivity as needed, free meals and other emergency services. For students who are newly MV-eligible, please contact the MV Liaison of the virtual school to let them know their status (listed on the Liaison Contact list on the ODE [MV website](#)).

6. Our district requires students and families to purchase insurance on Chromebooks. Can we use Title I-A or MV funds to pay for this?

Schools are required to provide free, appropriate public education to all MV-eligible students. If no other resources are available and this requirement would prevent students from accessing the curriculum, it can be paid with these federal funds. The district also has the option of waiving this requirement; however, the district should not subsequently charge the family or student for loss or repairs if the device was damaged.

RESOURCES FOR DISTRICTS AND MV LIAISONS

- *SchoolHouse Connection*
[Supporting Children and Youth Displaced by Disasters: Five Key Policies for Schools](#)
- *National Center on Homeless Education*
[Disaster Preparation and Response](#)