



EmpowerEd Student Verification Form 2025-2026

This verification form is to be used for students who **graduated after October 2024** and were identified by a legally designated school personnel as a homeless child or youth pursuant to Section 725 of the Federal “[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)” (42 U.S.C. SEC. 11434a), while residing in Colorado anytime between the start of 9th-grade and end of 12th-grade. Students verified as McKinney-Vento eligible prior to this time period do not need to fill out this form, as the Colorado Department of Higher Education can verify eligible status internally.

The following verification can **only** be completed by a Colorado public school district McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison. A full list of Colorado McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaisons can be found at: https://www.cde.state.co.us/studentssupport/homeless_liaisons

Student’s Legal Name: _____

Name at time of designation, if different from current name: _____

DOB: ____/____/____

SASID (School Assigned Student Identification): _____

Last Four Digits of Student’s Social Security Number, if applicable: _____

Student Graduation Year: _____

School District of Graduation: _____

With this form, I verify that the student listed above met the definition and was identified by a legally designated Colorado public school district McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison as a homeless child or youth pursuant to Section 725 of the Federal “[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)” (42 U.S.C. SEC. 11434a), while residing in Colorado anytime between the start of 9th-grade and end of 12th-grade.

Authorized Signature of McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison:	Date:
Print Name:	Telephone Number:
Title:	
School District/ Agency:	

EmpowerEd Program Overview:

EmpowerEd (HB 24-1403) is a state-funded program administered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education to provide higher education funding and support to eligible individuals who experienced homelessness while enrolled in a Colorado high school. This assistance covers the remaining balance of the total cost of attendance after any other private, state or federal financial aid has been applied.

Students who meet the following criteria are eligible to have the remaining cost of attendance (after scholarships, grants and other financial aid awards have been applied) covered through this program for up to 132 semester credit hours or 198 quarter credit hours.

- Identified by designated school personnel as a homeless child or youth under the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, while residing in Colorado anytime between the start of 9th-grade and end of 12th-grade,
- Is at least 17 years of age, and not yet 27 years old,
- Is a current Colorado resident,
- Has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA) for the applicable school year,
- Has been accepted into an in-state, public institution of higher education, local district college or area technical college, and
- Is enrolled in courses leading towards the qualifying student's first bachelor's degree, associate degree or certificate of completion at an accredited institution of higher education.

*Please note that EmpowerEd cannot be utilized to pursue a second degree of the same type. For example, if a student has already received a bachelor's degree, EmpowerEd can only be used towards a certificate or an associate degree. If a student has an associate degree, EmpowerEd can only be used towards a certificate or a bachelor's degree.

Application Process:

1. Complete the FAFSA or CASFA and indicate past or current experience of homelessness,
2. Be accepted and enrolled at an accredited Colorado public institution of higher education and
3. Complete the EmpowerEd Application and upload the McKinney-Vento EmpowerEd Verification form to the application, if applicable.

For more information on EmpowerEd and the application process, please visit:

<https://cdhe.colorado.gov/empowered>

For questions on accessing EmpowerEd, please contact eenavigator@dhe.state.co.us.