### Who Can Make a Determination of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Status?

The following chart lists the four groups of professionals authorized to make a determination that a student meets the definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth or is self-supporting and at risk of becoming homeless for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| School district or high school McKinney-Vento liaison                        | • Determines if student is eligible to receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act  
• Must inform unaccompanied homeless youth of their FAFSA status as independent students and assist them to obtain verification of that status  
• May continue to make a determination of a youth’s status for as long as the liaison has access to the information necessary to make such a determination  |
| Director or designee of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program  | • Program must be funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
• Documentation should include the time frame that the student resided in the shelter or program. In rare cases where a recognized authority provides documentation of unaccompanied homeless youth status to a person no longer receiving services from the authority’s organization, that documentation is acceptable for verifying unaccompanied homelessness.  
• May provide supporting documentation for subsequent yeardeterminations |
| Director or designee of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program | • Can only make a determination if the student utilized the services of the shelter or program on or after the date specified on the FAFSA  
• Documentation should include the time frame that the student resided in the shelter or program. In rare cases where a recognized authority provides documentation of unaccompanied homeless youth status to a person no longer receiving services from the authority’s organization, that documentation is acceptable for verifying unaccompanied homelessness. |
| Financial aid administrators                                                 | • Must make a determination if a student does not have a determination from another professional  
• Purpose of determination is to confirm student’s living situation meets the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness  
• Making a determination does not require a dependency appeal  
• Making a determination is not an exercise of professional judgment authority  
• Determination may be made using a documented interview |

---

1 Per amendment to Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, effective October 1, 2016. 11432(g)(6)(A)(x)(III).  
2 Per [U.S. Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance, Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ohpe/hs/homeless/eligibility.html)