

## Homeless Education

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (M-V) ensures educational rights for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The primary goal is educational stability.

### Definitions

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness means children and youth who are otherwise legally entitled to or eligible for a free public education, including preschool, and lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who:
  - are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
  - are living in motels, hotels, campgrounds or trailer parks due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
  - are abandoned in hospitals;
  - have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
  - are living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; and
  - are migratory and living in a situation described above.
- A child or youth shall be considered to be experiencing homelessness for as long as he or she is in a living situation described above and to the end of the school year in which the student moves into permanent housing.
- Unaccompanied youth means a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, who is experiencing homelessness as defined above. The more general term youth also includes unaccompanied youth.
- School of origin means the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- Liaison is the staff person designated by a Local Education Agency (LEA) as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Immediate means without delay.

## Homeless Education Rights

### Identified homeless students are able to:

1. enroll without delay in school without proof of residency, immunization, school records, other documents or while documentation is being obtained;
2. choose between the local school where they are living or the school last attended before becoming homeless, when requested by the parent and determined by the district to be feasible and in the student's best interest;
3. attend school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless; and
4. receive all the school services available to other students including transportation services, special educational services where applicable, and meals through the school meals programs

**If you suspect that a student is homeless, please complete a SSW referral and/or contact Tracie C. Turner, Homeless Liaison @ [tturner@worthschools.net](mailto:tturner@worthschools.net) or 229-776-8600 or 463 - 3063.**

For more information on Homeless Education, please visit <http://www.naehcy.org/>