



Homeless Children and Youth Have School Rights

Under Federal and State Law (the McKinney-Vento Act)

Who is a homeless student?	<i>A child without a fixed address is homeless.</i> The child may live in a shelter, a temporary home, a motel, a car, a campground, or on the street. Homeless children may live temporarily with relatives and or friends, because of a loss of permanent housing, or be in transitional housing. Foster youth in emergency shelters and/or awaiting foster care placement are also considered homeless.
Which school can a homeless student attend?	<i>A parent has a choice of schools.</i> The child can continue to attend the same school the child was attending before the family lost its permanent housing, or the child can enroll in the home school serving the family’s temporary address. The student can stay in the chosen school for as long as the student is homeless, or until the end of the school year if the student becomes permanently housed during the school year.
Is transportation provided?	<i>Yes.</i> To get transportation you should ask at the school. There is a form you can fill out to ask for transportation. Transportation arrangements may change if you move to a different temporary address or when you become permanently housed.
Does residency have to be proven?	<i>No.</i> Schools must enroll homeless students right away with or without records of residency.
Are services available?	<i>Yes.</i> We can help. We can help with school records and materials. We can also help with school meal programs and education services. We may be able to help with food, clothing, medical referrals, tutoring and after school care.
Can school fees be waived?	<i>Yes.</i> If you cannot afford fees they can be waived. Talk to the school office staff. There is a form you can fill out to ask that a fee be waived.
Is there a right to appeal?	<i>Yes.</i> A parent may appeal decisions regarding a child’s education. For example, if you disagree with a decision about school enrollment, school transportation, services or waiver of fees you can appeal. You can get an appeal form from the school office staff.
If you are homeless should you tell someone at school?	<i>Yes.</i> We will be able to help.
Is help available?	<i>Yes.</i> Ask for help at any school, or call the number below.

Homeless Education Coordinator

For further information please call 410-222-5326 or fax to 410-222-5636