

## WHO IS HOMELESS?

(McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 – Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act – Sec 725)

The term “homeless children and youth”—

A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and

B. includes —

- i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...
- iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- iv. migratory children...who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

- ▶ Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there
- ▶ Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled
- ▶ Receive transportation to and from the school of origin
- ▶ Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records
- ▶ Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records
- ▶ Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services
- ▶ Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited



National Center for Homeless Education  
Toll-free Helpline: 800-308-2145  
Website: <http://www.serve.org/nche>  
E-mail: [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)



Local Liaison Bryan Williams Colfax 515-674-4430
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State Coordinator 1-800-308-2145
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Si usted necesita ayuda adicional con las necesidades educacionales de sus hijos, contacte al Centro Nacional de Educación para los Niños y Jóvenes sin Hogar:  
1-800-308-2145 \* [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org) \* [www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)