

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 an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and
- B. Includes:
 - a. 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 shelter; are abandoned in hospitals, or are awaiting foster care placement;
 - b. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - c. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - d. Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).

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 including transportation and supplemental educational services.
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited.



Local Liaison Tina Ross Colfax 515-674-4111
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State Coordinator 1-800-308-2145
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National Center for Homeless Education
Toll-Free Helpline: 800-308-2145
Website: <http://www.serve.org/nche>
E-mail: homeless@serve.org

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 * www.serve.org/nche