



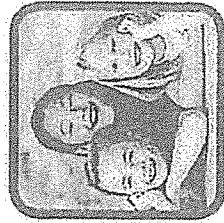
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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL

A Guide for Parents,
Guardians, and Caregivers

LOCAL LIAISON

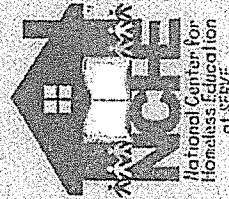
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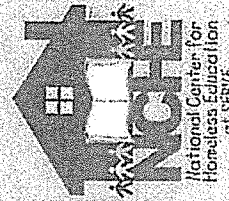
STATE COORDINATOR FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION

Donna Cash
573-522-8763 or 573-751-3468
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If your family is in a temporary or inadequate living situation due to a loss of housing, your child might be eligible for certain educational rights and services.



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

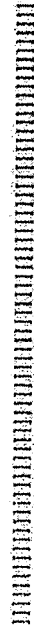


National Center for
Homeless Education

*Supporting the Education of Children
and Youth Experiencing Homelessness*

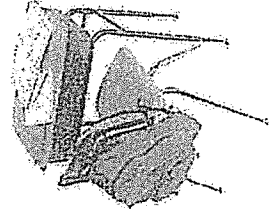
THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: THE BASICS

If you lost your housing and now live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, camping ground, or temporary trailer, on the street; doubled-up with family or friends; or in another type of temporary or inadequate housing, your child might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Act.



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 gathers 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; a school can not segregate a student because he or she is homeless.



RESOURCES FROM NCHE

Toll-free Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org

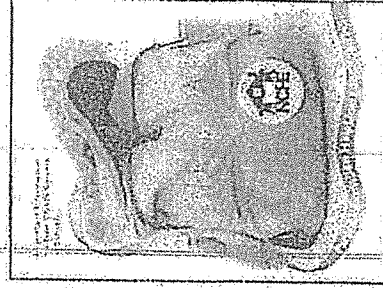
- ▶ NCHE can explain your child's school rights and tell you how to contact the local liaison in your school district. The local liaison can help enroll your child in school and make sure that your child receives the help that he/she needs.

Website: <http://www.serve.org/nche>

- ▶ The NCHE website has a lot of good information, including a webpage for parents who want to help their child in school: http://www.serve.org/nche/lbt/parent_res.php.

Parent Pack Pocket Folders

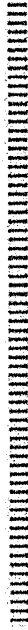
- ▶ Parent Pack Pocket Folders are folders where you can keep important records and papers related to your child's schooling. The folder also explains the educational rights of children in homeless situations. Order these folders for free by calling 800-308-2145 (toll-free) or visiting http://www.serve.org/nche/online_order.php.



Parent Pack Pocket Folder

What if the school and I disagree on where my child should go to school?

If you and the school disagree, the school district has to tell you in writing why it thinks your child should go to a different school than the one you want. The district also has to tell you in writing how you can appeal this decision. Your child can still enroll in, attend, and participate fully in the school you think is best for him or her while the disagreement is being settled.



Whom can I contact to help with my child's education?

- ▶ Every school district has a local homeless education liaison. This person can help you decide which school would be best for your child and communicate with the school. The local liaison also can help your child get school supplies, supplemental services, and free school meals; set up transportation to and from the school of origin; and help you find community supports.
- ▶ When you enroll your child in a new school, you should ask to meet his/her teacher(s). You should also talk to your child's teacher(s) every so often to talk about how he or she is doing. Know at least one teacher at your child's school well enough to ask questions about your child's schoolwork and to give him or her information that will help your child learn.
- ▶ The school counselor can help your child deal with changes and challenges. Share with this person any information about how your child is acting at home or things he or she is dealing with that might affect his/her schoolwork.
- ▶ Other good people to know are the school principal, attendance officer, bus driver, school social worker, and school nurse.
- ▶ All school and school district staff can help make sure your child gets all the services he or she needs to do well in school. You are an important partner in your child's schooling and should work as a team with the school and school district.

What questions should I ask regarding services under McKinney-Vento?

- ▶ Who is the local homeless education liaison? How can I contact him or her?
- ▶ What transportation is available for my child to stay in the same school (the school of origin)?
- ▶ If my child changes schools, who can help us transfer records quickly?
- ▶ How can my child receive free meals at school?
- ▶ How can my child receive free school supplies, if needed?
- ▶ Who can help if my child needs special education services? How quickly can these services be set up?
- ▶ What academic help is available for my child, such as Title I programs or after-school tutoring?
- ▶ What programs can help develop my child's talents and address his/her unique needs?
- ▶ Are there sports, music, or other activities available for my child?
- ▶ How can my child go on class field trips or participate in other school activities if I can't pay for them?
- ▶ Is there a preschool program for my younger children?

