

Information for Parents

The McKinney-Vento Act defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- A motel, hotel, campground, or other inadequate accommodations
- A place that is not designed for regular sleeping such as a car, park, abandoned building, substandard housing, or a bus or train station
- An emergency or transitional shelter
- Doubled-up with friends or relatives because you cannot afford or find housing
- Or you have a child in Foster Care who is awaiting permanent placement

Then your preschool or school-aged child has the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where the student lives or how long they have lived there.
- Continue in the school they last attended before becoming homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible
- Receive transportation to the school they last attended before the family became homeless or the school they last attended, if the parent/guardian requests such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of choice even while the school and the parent/guardian seek to resolve any dispute over enrollment of student.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act ensures the educational rights of homeless children and youth, which enables them to enroll in school, attend regularly and succeed in educational opportunities.

Ask your student's liaison:

- Is transportation available for my child to stay in the same school?
- Will someone help us transfer records quickly when we move?
- Is there a pre-school program?
- Are there any special classes that would benefit a talent my child has?
- Should my child be tested for special education?
- Are there sports, music, or other activities in which my child can participate?
- Can my child receive free meals at school?
- Are school supplies available?
- Will my child be able to go on field trips even if we are unable to pay?
- Are there after-school study halls or tutoring available?

Congress Elementary School District Liaison:

Dr. Stephanie Miller

If you need further assistance, call the National Center for Homeless Education at the toll-free Helpline number: **1-800-308-2145**