

## ***If you change schools, your children could lose more than their favorite teachers...***

A new school means—

- ◆ New classmates
- ◆ New teachers
- ◆ New books
- ◆ New schedules
- ◆ New rules and
- ◆ A whole new routine.

**This change is really hard for kids. And change is often scary, too.**

Your kids may miss their old friends—it may be hard for your kids to make new friends.

Your kids may fall behind in their school work—they may miss lessons that the class studied earlier.

*In fact, research shows that children can fall behind as much as 6 months with each school change.*

## ***Homeless children and youth have the right to***

- Stay in their old school
- or
- Go to the school near where they are staying.

Homeless children have the right to immediate enrollment, even without school or medical records.

Homeless children also have the right to get transportation to school, if needed.

**Information given at time of enrollment is confidential.**

## ***Should your child change schools?***

***The choice is yours.*** Think of what is best for your child.

Ask yourself these questions:

- “How well does my child adapt to new places and people?”
- “Will we be returning home in the near future?”
- “Will the ride to school be too long for my child?”
- “Will my child feel safe?”
- “Will school staff be able to help my child?”
- “Will this school be the **best** choice for my child?”

***If you decide to change schools, remember:***

Do it at the right time!

Try to change schools during summer vacation or semester break.

Get to know school staff!

Talk to the teachers and principals at your **old school**—tell them you're changing schools. (Remember to return school materials.)

Introduce yourself to teachers and principals at your **new school**—tell them about your children.

Stay Involved!

Help your child deal with new books, schedules, and teachers.

Stay Alert!

Watch for problems in your child's schoolwork. Talk to your child and the teachers if your child falls behind.

For more information, contact:

Your local school homeless liaison:

**The Opening Doors Project:  
Adult Learning Resource Center  
(224) 366-8623  
Regional Office of Education #26  
(309) 837-4821  
Illinois Coalition to End  
Homelessness  
(708) 263-3590**

**Law Project of the Chicago  
Coalition for the Homeless  
(800) 940-1119**

**Illinois State Board of Education  
Information Hotline  
(800) 215-6379**

**Accountability Division  
Principal Consultant - ISBE  
(217) 782-2948**

<http://homelessed.net>

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**Should My Child  
Change Schools  
If We Become  
Homeless?**

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Statewide Access to Education for  
Homeless Children and Youth

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