



Have You And Your Children Lost Housing?

If you have additional questions that are not answered by the school, call the

**ILLINOIS HOMELESS
EDUCATION PROGRAM
HOTLINE**
1-800-215-6379



More Information for Families

Helpful websites to learn more about your children's rights and services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program:

In Illinois:

- Illinois Homeless Education Program: www.isbe.net/homeless

National:

- The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE): www.serve.org/nche
- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth: www.naehcy.org

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Are you...

- Sharing housing with others because of loss of housing, economic need or domestic violence?
- Living in a shelter or motel?
- Living in a campground, park, car, or abandoned building?
- Without a permanent address?

Every Child Deserves to be in School

If you and your children are living in a temporary housing situation, there is an important program at your school that can help you, the Illinois McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program.

The program tries to keep children at the same school, so they do not have to change schools when the family has to move due to homelessness. The program gives your children certain rights and services, such as school fee waivers to participate in school activities.

You and your children have certain choices where to attend school:

- **The school of origin:** *the school your children attended when you moved to a temporary housing situation, or the last school they attended.*

Staying at the school of origin is recommended to help your children do well in school, continue learning, and keep friendships.

Each time children change schools they lose three to six months of progress. Transportation to and from the school of origin will be provided by your school district so your children can stay at their same school, if staying in this school is in the children's best interest.

- **A new school:** *the school in the attendance area where you and your children are now staying.*

If you choose to have your children transfer to the local attendance area school, the new school must enroll them in school immediately, without the records normally required for enrollment (proof of residency, proof of guardianship, immunization or other health records, previous school records, or a birth certificate).

The school will help you to get these records. However, they are not required at the time of enrollment.

The Homeless Education Program at Your School

Regardless of where your children go to school, each school district has a local Homeless Education Liaison to help you and your children. You should meet with your Local Liaison to see if your children are eligible for the Homeless Education Program. This program will protect your children's rights, such as staying in their school of origin or immediate enrollment in their new school.

If you have changed schools, your local School District Liaison will help you get your children's school and health records. The Homeless Education Program may also give you and your children these services:

- School fee waivers
- Free school meals
- Uniforms, if required, and school supplies
- Information about all available educational programs, such as tutoring, special education and programs for English language learners
- Before- and after-school programs, as appropriate
- Pre-school information
- Information about low-cost or free health services

Problem Solving

If you do not agree with your school district about the services your children are receiving, you have the right to discuss the problem with the Local Liaison. The school must continue to provide the services until the disagreement/conflict is settled. In settling the problem, the Local Liaison must give you information about the Homeless Education Program dispute process. The Local Liaison must also give you a list of low cost or free legal aid and other programs in the community to help you.

Contact: