

We are here to help

BUSD has a Homeless Education Program and we are here to assist you.

WE CAN:

- Facilitate school enrollment
- Advocacy to keep your child in his/her school of origin, if possible
- Transportation assistance
- Resolution of school enrollment disputes
- Help to ensure students in transition receive appropriate education
- Backpacks & school supplies
- Refer to community resources

To foster your child's academic success:

- Ensure your child attends school daily and on time. Attendance leads to progress.
- Meet and talk with teachers regularly to discuss how your child is doing.
- Attend school meetings
- Meet with the school counselor to help your child deal with changes and challenges.
- Get your child additional help if needed (e.g., tutoring, counseling).



The McKinney-Vento Act defines the term homeless as any individual lacking a fixed, regular, adequate night-time residence.

**Barstow Unified School District
Daisy Alvarez
Outreach Liaison
760-255-6026**

Is my family considered Homeless?

By law, school-aged children in one of the following situations may be considered homeless if they are:

- Living in a shelter
- Living in a campgrounds, trailers or parks
- Living in an automobile
- Living in an abandoned building or public place
- Staying doubled up with friends or relatives due to loss of housing from financial hardship
- Living in substandard housing (i.e. no running water, no electricity)
- Living in a transitional housing program.

If you believe you may be eligible and need services

Please complete the Student Residency Questionnaire and contact Daisy Alvarez at 760-255-6026.

Barstow Unified School District

**551 South Avenue H
Barstow, CA 92311
Tel. (760)255-6000**



Pupil Services

Supporting the Education of Students Experiencing Homelessness



Welcome to:

**BARSTOW UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT**



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.

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.

Should Students Change Schools?

Changing schools can be difficult to students leaving friends, teachers and dealing with new friends, teacher and classes.

It is usually best for your child to remain in his/her same school (the school of origin), even if you move to a different area.

Here are some questions to think about when making your decision:

- How permanent is your current living situation?
- Is your child attached to his/her school?
- How anxious is your child because you had to move?
- Would changing schools be overwhelming?
- Would changing schools cause your child to fall behind in school?
- Is this a good time for your child to change schools, such as at the end of a semester or school year, after testing, or after an important event for your child?
- How much time would your child spend going back and forth to and from school?

If there is a dispute about school selection:

If you and the school disagree about where your child should go to school, the school must notify you in writing of the reason and provide you with information on the appeal process.

Your child can still enroll, attend and fully participate in the school you selected until the disagreement is settled.

Under McKinney-Vento,

Eligible students have the right to:

- Receive a free and appropriate public education, and instructional services comparable to those provided to other students
- Enroll in school immediately, even if they lack documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers required documents
- Enroll in either:
 - The local school of attendance; or
 - Continue attending their school of origin (the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), depending on preference and feasibility
- Remain at the school until your family is permanently housed
- Receive public transportation to and from the school of origin, if eligible.



McKinney-Vento Act

In 1987 President Reagan signed the McKinney-Vento Act into law. The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal mandate created to ensure students experiencing homelessness have the right to an equal and fair education.

“Through it all, school is probably the only thing that has kept me going. I know that every day that I walk in those doors, I can stop thinking about my problems for the next six hours and concentrate on what is most important to me.”

Formerly Homeless Student