Your child has a right to go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.

Children can be encouraged by your interest in their day at school, their homework, and the papers they bring home. They also benefit when you take time to ask questions or visit their school.

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOMELESSNESS
DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

The federal government’s legal definition of homelessness based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance is anyone who...

- lacks a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence (substandard housing).
- is sharing housing due to economic struggles (double-up).
- is living in a shelter, hotel or motel.
- is living in a public place not designated for sleeping (cars, parks).
- is an unaccompanied youth.
- is a child or youth awaiting foster care placement.
- is a child or youth abandoned a hospital.
- is a migrant child who qualifies under any of the above.

YOUR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Your preschool and school-aged children have the following rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act:

- go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.
- continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the last one they attended.
- receive transportation to school and to school programs.
- attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- enroll without giving a permanent address.
- enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of required school records or documents.
- enroll and attend classes even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- receive special programs and services.
- transfer of partial course credit.
- ask for a copy of your child’s school records, including immunizations.
- allow your child to say good-bye to friends and teachers.
- let the school officials know if you want your child to stay in his or her school while you are getting the family stabilized.

IF YOU MOVE OFTEN:
- keep a copy of birth certificates and school records accessible.
- keep a copy of birth certificates and school records or documents.
- go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.
- receive transportation to school and to school programs.
- attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- enroll without giving a permanent address.
- enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of required school records or documents.

ASK ABOUT SCHOOL SERVICES

- breakfast and lunch programs
- transportation
- special education programs

United Way 211 422 McHenry Ave., Modesto 572-2255
American Red Cross 1230 6th St., Modesto 523-6451
Center for Human Services Pathways Transitional Living for youth 18-21 526-3809
Hutton House Shelter for runaway teens 13-17 (counseling) 526-5544
Children’s Crisis Center (Emergency shelter and childcare for children 0-17) 24hr Crisis Line: 577-6413
Community Housing and Shelter Services 708 H St., Modesto 527-0444
C.V.O.C. Emergency Shelter, rental and energy assistance, food vouchers 1516 Remington Drive, Suite 100, Modesto 577-3210
Family Promise (Shelter for families with minor children) 549-9454
Turlock Gospel Mission (Emergency shelter for women and children) 656-1033
Haven Women’s Center (Shelter for battered women and their children) 262-4331
Housing Authority of Stanislaus County (Section 8, subsidized and low income housing) 577-2000
Interfaith Ministries 120 Kerr Ave., Modesto 572-3117
Modesto Union Gospel Mission (Emergency shelter for men and women and children) 529-8259
Stanislaus Homeless Outreach Program (Mental Health Services, Housing and Shelter) 341-1824

The Salvation Army 625 1st St. (7th and I Street), Modesto (Food bank for Modesto residents) 523-7577
Hot Lunch Mon-Fri, 12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m. 893 Lander Ave., Turlock (Food bank for Turlock residents) 667-6091
Commodity Food Program (1st Thursday 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) 577-3600
Community Sharing Christian Center (Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) 579 Center St., Oakdale 847-3401
Interfaith Ministries (Food provided Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m.) 572-3117
Love Center (Supplemental food Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 617 Winmore Way, Modesto 538-9700

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