

# Realizing the Education Achievement of Children experiencing Homelessness

## WHAT WE DO

At Project REACH and Fostering Connections, we work with Saint Paul Public Schools and other community agencies to support the education of children in foster care or experiencing homelessness.

We do everything from coordinating school transportation to contacting agencies that provide medical assistance. If you are homeless, you can count on us to support your child's educational experience.

### Students and families are eligible if they live:

- In a shelter
- In a motel or hotel
- In a vehicle
- At a campground
- On the street
- With friends and family due to a financial issue and because they have no other place to live
- In an emergency shelter and are awaiting foster care placement

### Or if you are:

- A youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian

## Our staff:

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### Contact us with questions or concerns:

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www.homeless.spps.org



## PROJECT REACH and Fostering Connections

### EDUCATION SERVICES FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH



www.homeless.spps.org

## WHO WE ARE



Project REACH is a Saint Paul Public Schools shelter and street-based program that promotes school stability and academic success of homeless children and youth. Our program staff serve pre-k and school age children who are in temporary housing situations.

Students who have stable school environments are more likely to reach their academic goals, less likely to have behavior problems, and are happier and healthier at school. At Project REACH, we are dedicated to the learning, health and well-being of every student at Saint Paul Public Schools. We help students in homeless situations stay connected to their schools, friends and community.

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 is a federal law that plans for the educational stability of school-age children and youth placed in and out-of-home care.



# PROJECT REACH and Fostering Connections: EDUCATION SERVICES FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH

## HOW WE WORK

### For students and families, we:

- Enroll students in school, even if they don't have all their documents
- Transport families to enrollment appointments and transport students to school
- Give students access to school supplies and school uniforms
- Refer families to community agencies for medical, legal, food, clothing and housing needs
- Coordinate early childhood registration and screenings
- Advocate for special education services
- Tutor students living in some Saint Paul shelters

### For schools and community agencies, we:

- Train or consult with your staff or volunteers
- Provide McKinney/ Vento services to families and students you are working with
- Determine eligibility for Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth
- Assist with school related issues

## STUDENTS RIGHTS



### Children and youth in homeless or foster care situations have the right to:

- Continue in the school attended before they became homeless or were placed in foster care
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before they became homeless or placed in foster care, when possible
- Participate in the same programs and services that are provided to all other SPPS students
- Automatically qualify for free school meals
- Immediately enroll in any school without proof of resident status, immunizations, school records, proof of guardianship or other documents

## CONTACT US

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[www.homeless.spps.org](http://www.homeless.spps.org)