Helping the Homeless

Each school district in the United States has a designated Homeless Liaison. This person is responsible for assuring that each homeless child or youth receives all the services guaranteed by federal law.

In addition, Pennsylvania is served by eight regional PA ECYEH Programs that cover all counties and school districts in the state. The contact information for each region can be found on the web at:

http://homeless.center-school.org/homelessdirectory

Contact may also be made to:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Division of Student & Safe School Services
Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program
333 Market Street
5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126
Phone: 717-683-6468

Homeless Student Liaison

Janesca Martin
Homeless and Foster Care Liaison
School Counselor, East Campus
The Chester Community Charter School
214 East 5th St.
Chester, PA 19013
Phone: 610-447-0400 Ext. 1134

CHESTER COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Chester Community Charter School

Growing the Whole Child

302 East 5th Street
Chester, PA 19013
Phone: 610-447-0400

The Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

The Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (PA ECYEH Program), assures execution of the federal legislation, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1988: also incorporated into the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act. Implementation of this program ensures that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same, free, appropriate, public education; including preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.



Some of the main objectives of the PA ECYEH Program are to inform local school districts of their responsibilities to homeless children and youth, to increase awareness about the needs of homeless children, reveal and overcome possible educational barriers, explain current legislation and polices, and provide practical tips for working with homeless children.

Homeless Children and Youth May be Found Living in the Following Places or Situations:

- Public or private shelters;
- With a parent in a domestic violence shelter;
- Transitional housing programs;
- Public or private places not designated for, or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations such as: vehicles, parks, hotels/motels, campgrounds, etc.;
- Individuals and/or families staying with relatives or friends due to lack of housing;
- Runaways, (under 18 years of age), and children or youth who have been abandoned or forced out of their homes by parents or other caretakers. These children may be in temporary shelters awaiting assistance from social service agencies, live alone on the street, or may be moving from place to place among family members, friends or acquaintances;
- Abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care; or,
- Children of migrant families who lack adequate housing.

Rights of Homeless Children & Youth Include:

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- Continuing their education in their current school, and provide transportation to that school, (if feasible);
- Immediate enrollment in the school district where they are temporarily housed;
- Assistance with obtaining school records*Note: lack of school records may not affect the right to immediate enrollment;
- Participation in all applicable school programs, including supplementary instructional programs, field trips, and other enrichment activities as well as after-school recreational programs, etc.;
- Assistance with school-related expenses, such as: supplies, clothing, uniforms, meals, etc.;



"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

-Nelson Mandela