

*Homeless Children in  
the Catasauqua  
Area School District*

*Responsibilities,*

*Rights, and*

*Resources*



## **Responsibilities**

The Catasauqua Area School District is committed to what is in the best interest of homeless children and youth. Whenever feasible, CASD will minimize the effects of mobility on homeless students by maintaining a stable educational environment.

CASD is responsible for enrolling homeless children and youth in the school that is in his or her best interest, and for providing prompt and sensitive service to parents and children who need assistance.

## **Definition of Homelessness**

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, students are considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, even if the temporary residence is outside CASD. Students living under the following conditions are considered homeless:

- Living with friends or relatives due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, or trailer parks used to house homeless families
- Living in an emergency shelter or transitional shelter
- Living in camping grounds
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, buses, or train stations
- Foster children awaiting foster care placement
- Unaccompanied youth who may be living in a shelter, inadequate housing, or denied housing by family

## **Where will my child go to school?**

The decision about which school your child attends should be made after considering such factors as—

- special needs of your child
- continuity of instruction
- length of stay in your temporary nighttime location
- time and distance to transport your child to and from school

You have the right to decide whether it is best for your child to:

- stay in the same school he or she attended before becoming homeless (school of origin); or
- attend the school serving your temporary nighttime location.

If the school your child attended before becoming homeless (school of origin) is in CASD, your child may continue to attend that school unless—

- you decide it would be better for your child to transfer to the school serving your temporary nighttime location, or

- we believe there is a good reason for your child to transfer to the school serving your temporary nighttime location

If the school your child attended before becoming homeless (school of origin) is outside Catasaquua Area School District, we will need to involve that school in deciding which school your child will attend and in setting up transportation.

### **What do I need to enroll my child in school?**

Your child has the right to be enrolled in school without delay. You will need to complete the following forms, available at all CASD schools and on the CASD Web site:

- CASD Enrollment Forms: *New Student Information* and check the homeless box
- CASD Form: *Homeless Status*

You will need to provide the following documents either while or after enrolling your child:

- School records
- Birth certificate
- Immunization records

Do not delay in enrolling your child in school. If you do not have these documents, let us know so we can help you get them.

Your child will receive lunch the first day, and is automatically eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch. Additionally, the school will provide you with information on any other program for which your child is eligible.

### **How will my child get to school?**

Transportation will be provided or arranged for homeless students attending their school of origin or the school serving their temporary nighttime location, except for walkers. School staff will assist in arranging transportation, which will be provided within four school days. If your child misses school due to lack of transportation, the absence will be excused. If a homeless student becomes permanently housed during the school year, he or she will continue to receive transportation until the end of that school year.

## Resources

The CASD homeless liaison, pupil personnel worker, or other school staff can help you do the following:

- Locate and obtain school records
- Obtain required immunizations
- Seek additional services such as special education, gifted and talented programs, tutoring, and school supplies
- Obtain transportation
- Seek support from appropriate governmental and community agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services
- File an appeal over any disagreements regarding which school would be in your child's best interest
- Answer questions about getting a waiver of school-related fees

## Important Information

CASD: *PA Homeless Children's Initiative (McKinney-Vento Act)* provides more detailed information and is on the CASD Web site at [www.cattsd.org](http://www.cattsd.org)

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