

As of April 10, 2024

The Charleroi Area School District currently has 190 students who are identified as homeless.

The McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) defines *homeless* as follows:

The term “homeless children and youths”–

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and

(B) includes–

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;*

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for this subtitle because the children are living in the circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

The primary purpose of this program is to make sure homeless youth have access to free and appropriate public education while removing barriers that homeless children face. Its goal is to have the educational process continue as uninterrupted as possible while the children are in homeless situations.

Basic Education Circular (BEC) Education for Homeless Youth

The selected school shall immediately enroll the child or youth in school, even if the child or youth lacks records usually required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.

The education district should immediately enroll and begin to provide instruction. The receiving school district may contact the district of origin for oral confirmation that the child has been immunized. Oral confirmation between professionals is sufficient to verify immunization, with written confirmation to follow within 30 days.

Q. If we enroll a student who is homeless without requiring proof of immunizations, aren't we putting the entire school at risk?

A: The McKinney-Vento Act requires immediate enrollment, even if students cannot produce immunization or other medical records, recognizing that families and youth who are homeless are frequently unable to obtain and keep copies of records. 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(C).

Most homeless students have been enrolled in school before and have had required immunizations. These records should be a part of their school records. Since the enrolling school is required to contact the previous school for records, the information should be available quickly. 42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(3)(C), (D). The enrolling school and the liaison should work together to get immunization records as soon as possible. If a student has not had immunizations, initial doses should be administered as soon as

possible unless the student has a philosophical, religious, or medical exemption. It is accepted practice in most states and in the public health community that some children will not be immunized for these reasons. It is recognized among public health practitioners that the fact that most students are immunized prevents serious outbreaks from occurring. Should an outbreak of illness occur, the same procedures used to protect unimmunized children can be used to protect students whose immunization records have not yet been obtained.