



## What is HEP?

The Dallas ISD Homeless Education Program (HEP) supports homeless students and their families through the funding of the McKinney-Vento Act.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires the immediate enrollment of children and youth experiencing homelessness, even in the absence of records normally required for enrollment. School is the safest place to be for children who may be in danger.

## Who are “Unaccompanied Youth”?

Unaccompanied youth are youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or court-appointed guardian, including:

- Young people who have run away from home.
- Young people who have been forced to leave their homes.
- Young people whose parents have left the area and left the student here.

### Their possible living situations include:

- Living with friends (couch surfing)
- Living in shelters
- Living in cars, campgrounds, in abandoned buildings, or other public spaces or on the streets.
- Living with an adult who is not their parent and does not have legal custody of them.

**Does this sound like you or someone you know? Reach out to the HEP team for resources on shelter, food, and academic support. You are not alone!**

National Runaway Safeline  
By calling **1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)**, you can connect with a trusted, compassionate person who will listen and help you create a plan to address your concerns.

## Our Services

The HEP is here to help. Below are some of the ways we support students and families experiencing homelessness.

- Assist with enrollment, school transportation, school uniforms and school supplies.
- Provide emergency food and hygiene items.
- Offer referrals to additional resources for food, housing, and other specific needs.
- Provide referrals to counseling and medical services as needed.

**Scan the QR code to visit the HEP website and learn about our services and resources.**



It's **OK** to ask for **HELP**

## Dallas ISD Homeless Education Program

Empowering and encouraging confidence, inspiration, independence, and stability for every homeless child and youth in Dallas ISD.



Homeless Education Program

## What is homelessness?

People who are experiencing homelessness are unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, secure, and adequate housing, or lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence.” Homelessness can happen to anyone – one study reports that almost 60% of Americans are one missed paycheck away from homelessness.

**Help is available.**

## What are some common causes of homelessness?

- Economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment/underemployment, lack of affordable housing, single parenting/single income
- Health challenges such as disabilities, mental health issues, or substance abuse



- Trauma such as domestic violence, child abuse, or natural disasters
- Acute conflict such as pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, or blended family issues
- Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing policies such as lack of space
- Deportation

## Living situations defined as homeless:

- Emergency Shelters or Transitional Housing
- Motels/Hotels
- Home of friends or relatives due to economic hardships
- Unsheltered/  
Unaccompanied

---

**“Sometimes strength comes in knowing you are not alone.”**

---

## What should I do now?

If you or your family are experiencing homelessness, there are many ways the HEP team and your local school staff can support you. Here are some steps you can take within the school:

- Reach out to the HEP or your school’s counselor/support staff and let them know you are experiencing homelessness.
- Complete an SRQ form (student residency questionnaire) at your school’s campus.
- Tell the counselor/support staff about any transportation issues you may have. You may be eligible for bus passes or special transportation arrangements.
- Let the staff know if you need food, toiletry/hygiene items, school supplies, or uniforms. We are here to help.



## Important Resources

We know each family’s situation is unique and their needs may be varied. Below are just a handful of resources that may be helpful during this time.

- **211** – Texas Directory to all area resources including housing/shelter, employment, food, clothing, legal aid, and crisis/emergency support. Phone: Dial 211
- **Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance**  
Homeless Crisis Helpline  
Phone: 888-411-6802
- **North Texas Food Bank** – Staff members can provide information about benefits available to families.  
Phone: 214-269-0906
- **Dallas ISD Mental Health Services** – Support available to students and families.  
Phone: (972) 925-3700

## Special Note for Parents & Caregivers:

Self-care is critical for parents facing the stress, uncertainty, and fear of homelessness. Find someone to talk to who may be in the same situation, or other trusted individuals who might help connect you with resources you need to stay safe, healthy, and strong.