# Every child has a right to an education.

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act and Texas state law protect the rights of homeless children and youth to receive a free and appropriate public education. Nearly everyone in Texas who is between the ages of 5 and 21 on September 1 of the school year and has not been expelled has the right to attend school, even if they:

- Do not have a permanent address
- Have a previous address in another town or state
- Do not live with a parent or legal quardian
- Live temporarily doubled-up with friends or family
- Sleep in a shelter
- Sleep in a campground, car, abandoned building, or other facility not designed for, or ordinarily used as regular accommodations for, human beings
- Do not have school records



### **Contact Information**

### **District Homeless Ligison**

Julianne Heldt, MA LPC 254-755-9433 julianne.heldt@wacoisd.org

### **Homeless Population Specialist**

Briotony Porter, LMSW 254-750-3918 briotonyporter@wacoisd.org

## Waco ISD Highly Mobile Student Services

501 Franklin Avenue P.O. Box 27 Waco, TX, 76703-0027



## Together for education...

### **Services**

In order to ensure that students in homeless situations have the opportunity to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school, the following services may be explored:

- Enrollment Assistance
- Free School Meals
- Transportation Services
- School Selection Provisions
- Access to Special Education

### Enroll your child in school.

You can enroll your child even if you are missing immunization records, school records, and proof of residency. In most instances, the local registrar will be able to assist with enrollment. Contact those listed on the back of this brochure for further assistance.

### Keep copies of critical records:

immunizations, Social Security number, health physicals, & individualized education plans (IEPs).



### Mission

Waco ISD's office of Highly Mobile Student
Services serves students experiencing
homelessness and students in foster care. Our
staff works with local educational agencies and
the greater Waco community to implement
educational and support services for students in
mobile living situations. In accordance with the
McKinney-Vento Act and the State of Texas, we
are entrusted with the task of helping to remove
barriers and to provide supports that assist
homeless and foster students to stay in school and
graduate.

### **Ask questions**

- Is transportation available for my child to stay in the same school?
- Will someone help us transfer records quickly when we move?
- Is there a pre-school program?
- Should my child be tested for special education?
- Can my child receive free meals at school?
- Are school supplies available?
- Is there after-school study halls or tutoring available?
- Are special counseling services available for my child?