



## TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Make sure your child arrives at school on time every day. Children who miss school miss out on important learning activities.
- Make sure your child gets eight to ten hours of sleep every night. Children who are well rested learn more.
- Read to your child every day. Reading is the key to success in school. Talk to your child's teacher or school librarian about books you can read together.
- Talk with your child's school about your living situation. Your child may qualify for additional help through other programs and resources available at the school.
- Talk to your child's teacher. The more a teacher knows about your child the more they can help them succeed.
- Get involved in your child's education. Your child's teacher and school can talk with you about how to become an active part of the school community.

## WHO IS HOMELESS?

**Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act defines the term “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including**

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;

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 who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

**Under the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth have the right to**

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending the school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), according to the student's best interest.

*\*If the school district believes that the school selected is not in the student's best interest, the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its position and inform the parent, guardian, or youth of the right to appeal its decision.*

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's needs.