WHAT PROTECTIONS DOES MY CHILD HAVE?

Your child has the same rights to participate in school programs and services as all WCPS students, such as:

- Free school breakfast and lunch
- Before and after school instructional programs
- Preschool programs
- Transportation
- Special education services
- Gifted and talented programs
- Career and technology education
- Extracurricular activities including music and athletics

Support and funding are available to ensure that each eligible child has access to these programs and services.



WHO CAN I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Homeless Education Liaison
Washington County Public Schools
301-766-2823
Dana Pentoney

Community Resources

Community Action Council 301-797-4161
(food/shelter assistance)

Children in Need..... 301-671-2014
(clothing/school supplies)

Department of
Social Services 240-420-2100

Juvenile Services/
Diversion Program 301-791-7171

Building a
COMMUNITY
that inspires curiosity, creativity &
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WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Revised 7/24

Education for Children of Families in Transition



HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

WCPS | Washington County Public Schools

Department of Student Services
301.766.2960

IS MY CHILD ENTITLED TO MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION SERVICES?

IF any of the following circumstances apply to you and/or your child:

- 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 emergency shelter or in transitional housing;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, bus, or train stations and/or substandard housing;
- Moving from place to place due to economic hardship;
- Unaccompanied youth; who qualifies under any of the above;
- Migrant child who qualifies under any of the above.

THEN, your pre-school aged and school-aged children have rights and protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.



IF MY FAMILY IS IN TRANSITION WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT MY CHILD'S EDUCATION?

You should discuss your situation with school officials so it can be determined whether it is in the best interest of your child to:

- Stay in the same school he or she attended before you became homeless (this is your school of origin); or
- Transfer to the school closest to your new location

Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) will enroll your child in the school that is determined to be in his/her best interest.



The decision about your child's school enrollment will take into consideration factors such as:

- Length of stay in new location
- Time and distance to transport your child to and from school
- Special needs of the child
- Future housing possibilities

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the child/youth must be immediately enrolled in the school in which he/she is seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute. All disputes should be brought to the attention of the Director of Student Services for resolution at 301-766-2960.

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO ENROLL MY CHILD IN SCHOOL?

If possible, please provide the following:

- School Records
- Birth Certificate
- Immunizations Record

If you experienced a loss of housing and you do not have these documents, your child will not be denied entry into school. You will be asked to complete a "Student in Transition Enrollment" form and school staff will help you obtain any necessary documents for enrollment.

WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORTATION?

1. Transportation will be provided for your child to attend the school determined to be in their best interest.
2. Your child's school will help you get transportation for your child.



"...the Education for Homeless children and Youth program ensures that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education provided to other children and youth."

Stewart B. McKinney, Homeless Assistance Act