



## **McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

The McKinney-Vento Act defines children and youth who are homeless (22 years of age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:
  - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as double-up);
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in the circumstances described above. The term “migratory children” means children who are (or whose parent(s) or spouse(s) are) migratory agricultural workers, including migratory dairy workers or migratory fishermen, and who have moved from one school district to another in the preceding 36 months, in order to (or accompany such parents or spouses in order to obtain) temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work.
- “Unaccompanied homeless youth” including any child who is “not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.” This includes youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or guardians, or separated from their parents for any other reason.

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, Boys' Latin of Philadelphia (“Boys' Latin” or “the school”) provides the following assurances to homeless children:

- The liaison for homeless children is the school counselor or social worker.
- There shall be immediate enrollment and school participation, even if educational and medical records and proof of residency are not available.
- All educational opportunities and related opportunities for homeless students (grade six until age 22), including unaccompanied youth, shall be the same as for the general student population.
- Enrollment and transportation rights, including transportation to the school of origin. “School of origin” is defined as the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- Written explanation of a child or youth’s school placement, other than school of origin or the school requested by the parent/guardian, with the right to appeal within the local dispute resolution process.
- Meaningful opportunities for parents/guardians to participate in the education of their children. These shall include special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.

Please contact the school counselor or social worker for more information.