Local Liaisons Duties Must Ensure That:

(i) children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;

(ii) children and youth experiencing homelessness are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools within the district;

(iii) children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Early Head Start and Head Start programs, early intervention services under Part C of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, and other preschool programs administered by the school district;

(iv) children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness receive referrals to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing, and other appropriate services;

(v) the parents or guardians of students experiencing homelessness are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

(vi) public notice of the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness is disseminated in locations frequented by families and youth experiencing homelessness, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth;

(vii) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

(viii) parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are fully informed of all transportation services available to McKinney-Vento students, including transportation to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation;

(ix) school personnel providing services to students experiencing homelessness receive professional development and other support; and

(x) unaccompanied youth

- (I) are enrolled in school;
- (II) have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youth; and
- (III) are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 1087vv), and receive assistance verifying this status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter

❖

In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation

❖

In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station

❖

Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Your eligible children 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 their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.
    - * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION · UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NCHE™ National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE

Local Liaison
Andrea Warren
918-925-1580

State Coordinator
Tammy Smith
Program Specialist Office of Federal Programs
(405) 522-3260
tammy.smith@sde.ok.gov

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs, contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145 ⋆ homeless@serve.org ⋆ http://nche.ed.gov