



Warrior Run School District

McKinney-Vento
Parent/Student Handbook

Warrior Run School District
4860 Susquehanna Trail
Turbotville, PA 17772

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Homeless Coordinator:
Mrs. Amanda Velte,
avelte@wrsd.org

(570) 649-5138 x5010





AREA AGENCIES LIST THAT WILL HELP

Agency	Address	Phone Number
Watsontown Police Department	318 Main St, Watsontown, PA 17777	(570) 538-2773
Milton State Police	50 Lawton Ln, Milton, PA 17847	(570) 524-2662
Watsontown United Methodist Church (summer food program at the park)	1319, 8th St Dr, Watsontown, PA 17777	(570) 538-1017
Rebecca Perruquet Community School Coordinator (clothing, food resources))	4800 Susquehanna Trail Turbotville, Pa 17772	Call (570) 649-5135, ext 4022
CWC Food Bank	363 Stamm Road Milton, PA 17847	570.742.8987
Hand Up Rebuilding Hope (home sweet home, woman's home, fire and flood emergency assistance, vehicles to work, job training)	262 Willow Street Milton, Pennsylvania 17847	570.742.3000
Gatehouse (homeless shelter)	1 Gatehouse Dr, Danville, PA 17821	(570) 275-6766
Haven Ministry Center (homeless shelter)	1043 S Front St, Sunbury, PA 17801	(570) 286-1672
The Salvation Army of Milton	30 S Center St, Milton, PA 17847	(570) 742-4231
Saving Grace Shelter	324 Campbell St, Williamsport, PA 17701	(570) 323-4130
211 utilities, housing, food, employment, resources across PA		Dial 211
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank - Williamsport Branch	3301 Wahoo Dr, Williamsport, PA 17701	(570) 321-8023
AGAPE food, clothing, financial assistance	851 Railroad St, Bloomsburg, PA 17815	(570) 317-2210
Footprints of Montgomery (food pantry)	1 Henry Hand Dr, Montgomery, PA 17752	(570) 337-7146
Son-Light House(food pantry)	130 Carpenter St, Muncy, PA 17756	(570) 546-3585
Delaware Run Wesleyan Church	5570 Musser Ln, Watsontown, PA 17777	(570) 538-1967
Central Susquehanna Opportunities utility help, housing food	<i>217 N. Center Street Sunbury PA 17801</i>	(570) 644-6575

Welcome to the Warrior Run School District. If you are receiving this handbook, then you have self-identified or identified your family as being in a “homeless situation”. Homeless is defined in PA by The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as:

Staying with friends or family because you lost housing. Living in a shelter, including transitional programs. Staying in motels because you cannot get your own home. Living on the streets, in a car, van, tent or other nonpermanent structure.

This handbook is designed to help support those in need of help. Returning to school is a critical step in the healing process for children and youth whose lives have been disrupted by homelessness. Going to school helps these students find structure, normalcy, and a routine that is essential to their health and well-being.

Fortunately, federal law (The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act) protects the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness. It provides grants and legal protections so children and youth in homeless situations can enroll in, attend, and succeed in school and preschool programs. This law also generally covers students who are displaced by disasters or emergencies.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I lose permanent housing, should I keep my child in the school of origin or transfer my child to the local school?

Moving from one school to another can be very upsetting for children. They have to leave the friends and teachers they know and get used to new friends, teachers, and classes. Because of this, it is usually best for your child to stay in his/ her same school (the school of origin), even if you move to a different area.

Here are some questions to think about when deciding whether your child should stay in the same school or move to the new school where you're living:

- How old is your child?
- How permanent is your current living arrangement? Do you plan to move back close to the school of origin or do you think you'll stay near your current living arrangement?
- Is your child attached to his/her school of origin? An older child who feels very connected to his/her school of origin and/or is about to graduate might have a harder time changing schools.
- How anxious is your child because you have had to move? Would changing schools be overwhelming?
- Would changing schools cause your child to fall behind in school and receive bad grades?
- Is this a good time of year for your child to change schools, such as at the end of a semester or school year, after testing, or after an event that is important to your child?
- How much time would your child have to spend going back and forth to the school of origin? A long ride might have a negative impact on your child's schoolwork.
- Are there safety issues to think about in choosing which school your child should attend?

McKinney Vento Guide for Students, Parents and Families

The McKinney-Vento Act Basics: If you lost your housing and now live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, camping ground, on the street doubled up with family or friends or in another type of temporary or inadequate housing, you or your child might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Act.

For Information Contact:

Amanda Velte
District Educational Liaison
570-649-5164 ext. 5010
avelte@wrsd.org

Mr. Jeff Zimmerman
Region 7 Coordinator PA ECYEH
570-718-4613
jzimmerman@liu18.org

What if the school and I disagree on where my child should go to school?

If you and the school disagree, the school district has to tell you in writing why it thinks your child should go to a different school than the one you want. The district also has to tell you in writing how you can appeal this decision. Your child can still enroll in, attend, and participate fully in the school you think is best for him or her while the disagreement is being settled.

Information for Parents

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

In a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground, on the street, in an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or doubled up with friends or relatives, because you cannot find or afford housing, then, your preschool aged and school aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Your children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. If a school sends your child to a school other than the one you request, the school must provide you with a written explanation and offer you the right to appeal the decision.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Children cannot be separated from the regular school programs because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your children.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

Whom can I contact to help with my or my child's education?

Every school district has a local homeless education liaison. This person can help you decide which school would be best for your child and communicate with the school. The local liaison also can help your child get school supplies, supplemental services, and free school meals; set up transportation to and from the school of origin; and help you find community supports.

When you enroll your child in a new school, you should ask to meet his/her teacher(s). You should also talk to your child's teacher(s) every so often to talk about how he or she is doing. Know at least one teacher at your child's school well enough to ask questions about your child's schoolwork and to give him or her information that will help your child learn.

The school counselor can help your child deal with changes and challenges. Share with this person any information about how your child is acting at home or things he or she is dealing with that might affect his/her schoolwork.

Other good people to know are the school principal, attendance officer, bus driver, school social worker, and school nurse.

When you move, you should do the following:

Contact the school district's local Liaison for Homeless Education, for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school. Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances. Ask the local Liaison for Homeless Education, for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

The following definition of “homeless” is provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The term “homeless children and youth”-

- A. Means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- B. Also includes
 - a. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of other accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
 - b. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
 - c. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substantial housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
 - d. Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living under unfit conditions.

SCHOOL SERVICES

School Services complement the services of relief agencies by providing a team of caring, nurturing professionals who attend to the needs at school:

- Every school has a local homeless education liaison who is a “first responder” in the case of a disaster, specializing in enrolling displaced children in schools. They evaluate their needs, and place them in appropriate programs.
- School nurses, counselors and other medical and mental health professionals are specialized in caring for children and youth.
- Special education staff members ensure that children with special needs receive appropriate services.
- Displaced children are automatically eligible for free school meals.
- Schools can provide displaced children with clothing, shoes, books, backpacks, transportation and school supplies.
- Schools support parents as well by orienting them to the local community, connecting them with local social services, resources, and parental involvement programs, and caring for students so parents can concentrate on finding housing, jobs and needed services.
- Fees related to school-sponsored or extracurricular activity participation fees, and other fees including, but not limited to, school identification, uniforms, materials, lost or damaged items, athletic physical exams, parking or driving, food services, library, locker or padlock rental or replacement, summer school or credit recovery, technology and graduation regalia fees can be waived.

