ASK ABOUT THESE SERVICES AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL:

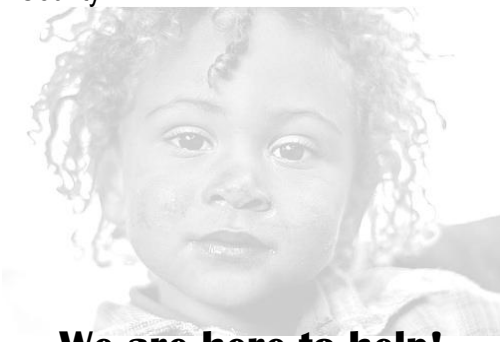
- Free nutrition programs
- Transportation assistance to the school of origin
- Special education programs, especially if the child has received services in the past
- Tutoring programs
- Programs to help children learn English
- Gifted or talented programs
- Magnet programs
- Preschool programs
- Before and after-school programs
- Homeless education programs

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Enroll your children in school promptly
- Send your children to school everyday
- Request needed transportation
- Request tutoring/counseling to make up for lost school time
- Meet your child's teachers regularly
- Give your input on what you think is best for your child
- Notify the school when moving
- Get current school records including immunizations, check-out grades, IEPs
- Contact the new district's homeless liaison for help in enrolling in school.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

- Provides up-to-date technical assistance to school districts and community agencies
- Collaborates with local district liaisons
- Provides school districts and parents with appropriate referral services
- Connects districts and families with educational resources
- Resolves homeless disputes that are not settled at the local school district
- Provides parent education workshops
- Provides supportive services to those students in LACOE programs that meet the federal definition of homeless
- Provides the Referral Guide for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families
- Maintains a current roster of the school district homeless liaisons in Los Angeles County.



We are here to help!

For assistance contact:
Seema Gaur, Ed.D., *Consultant II*
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education
12830 Columbia Way, ECW-263
Downey, California 90242
(562) 401-5397
gaur_seema@lacoe.edu
Website: homeless.lacoe.edu

Los Angeles County Office of Education

Leading Educators – Supporting Students – Serving Communities

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program

Making a difference in the lives of homeless children and youth in Los Angeles County



Educational Rights of Children in Homeless Situations

WHO IS HOMELESS?

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines homeless children and youth as individuals who:

- lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- live in an abandoned building, parked car, or other facility unfit for human habitation;
- are abandoned in hospitals;
- are placed by the state in an emergency shelter;
- share housing with another family due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
- live in a motel or hotel;
- live in emergency or transitional shelters;
- live in a trailer park or campsite with their family;
- are awaiting foster placement; or
- are migratory children that qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

DO YOU NEED A PERMANENT ADDRESS TO ATTEND SCHOOL?

No! A permanent address is not needed in order for your children to attend school.

WHICH SCHOOL CAN A HOMELESS STUDENT ATTEND?

There is a choice:

1. The school of origin (the school attended when permanently housed or the last school attended); or
2. The school in the attendance area where the student is temporarily living.

The mission of the Division of Student Support Services is to support the physical and mental health, safety, and well being of all students in Los Angeles County, to facilitate learning and success in school and in the community.

HOW WILL MY CHILD GET TO SCHOOL?

If you are temporarily living outside the attendance area of the school of origin, then you have a right to transportation services to and from the school of origin. If you are temporarily living within the attendance area of the school of attendance, then you are entitled to the same transportation services as permanently housed students.

WHAT LIMITATIONS CAN THE SCHOOL PLACE ON MY CHILD?

Homeless students have the right to participate in and have access to the same programs and services that are available to other students, if they are eligible.

IS THERE ANY REASON TO DELAY THE ENROLLMENT OF A HOMELESS CHILD?

No! Lack of school records or immunizations CANNOT prevent a homeless student from enrolling in the new school. It is the responsibility of the new school to request health and academic records from the previous school in a timely manner and to refer parents to free health clinics for any required immunizations. Homeless students do not need to wait until academic or health records arrive to attend the new school. The law requires **IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT.**



WHAT IF THE SCHOOL DISPUTES THE ENROLLMENT? DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO STAY OUT OF SCHOOL UNTIL A DECISION IS MADE?

No! If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student must be **immediately admitted/readmitted** to the school in which enrollment is sought until the dispute is resolved.

WHAT IF I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE RESOLUTION?

The parent must be given a written explanation of the school's decision on the dispute, including the right to appeal. The appeal would then go to the county level. If not resolved there, it would be appealed to the state level.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

The law requires every school district to have a prompt dispute resolution process. That process, the steps and timeline, must be clearly spelled out and available to parents.

WHAT ABOUT UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH – CAN THEY ENROLL IN SCHOOL WITHOUT A PARENT?

Yes! Every school district has a homeless liaison whose duties include assisting in the enrollment and placement process of unaccompanied homeless youth, considering the youth's wishes and providing notice to the youth of his/her right to appeal.

All children have a right to a free appropriate public education even if they do not have a permanent address, immunizations, or school records.