

# What Families Need to Know

**Your Child Can  
Enroll in School...**



## Even if you have:

- **Uncertain Housing**
  - **A Temporary Address**
  - **No Permanent Address**
- OR**
- **Your Child Is Not Living with A Legal Guardian**

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH LACKING FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE HOUSING

### Families should know:

- You **do not** need a permanent address to enroll your child in school.
- Your child **cannot** be denied school enrollment when school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- Your child may be able to remain in the same school (school of origin) even if you move.
- **Your child has the right to transportation services to and from the school of origin if that is in his/her best interest.**
- Schools must provide you with a written explanation if a placement dispute occurs, and you may appeal the school's decision. Your child will continue to be transported during the dispute process.
- Your child automatically qualifies to participate in free breakfast and lunch programs.
- Your child has the right to participate in extracurricular activities and all federal, state, or local programs for which he/she is eligible.
- **Unaccompanied Youth** are students not living with parent or legal guardian and are lacking fixed, regular, or adequate housing. Unaccompanied youth have the same rights listed above.

## AT SCHOOL, ASK ABOUT THESE SPECIAL SERVICES

- Tutoring programs
- Consistent attire assistance
- Programs to help children learn English
- Gifted or talented programs
- Summer school programs
- Preschool programs
- Before and after school programs
- Assistance with educational/athletic fees
- Mentoring programs
- Special education programs for students with disabilities, especially if the student has previously received special education services

**Schools give children and youth experiencing homelessness hope and a chance for a better future.**

## SCHOOL PROFESSIONALS ALSO MAY PROVIDE

- Quiet time or a personal space to allow your child to complete homework at school
- Basic school supplies
- Contact information for community agencies and helpful resources

## TIPS FOR FAMILIES WHO MOVE OFTEN

- Keep a copy of birth certificates and school records accessible.
- Safeguard all health and immunization records.
- Have a reliable person keep a second copy of the child's birth certificate, school records, and health information.
- Enroll children in school as soon as possible.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE MOVING

- Tell your child's teacher and principal that your child is moving and give them the new address.
- Let school officials know if you want your child to stay in his/her school of origin while you are getting the family stabilized.
- Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including immunizations.

## Collaborating Agencies and Resources

### Wicomico County

- Wicomico Schools 410-677-4400
- Health Department 410-543-6943
- Social Services 410-713-3900
- Partnership for Families and Children 410-546-5400
- HELP Line 211

### Shelters

- Christian Shelter 410-749-5673
- Life Crisis 410-749-4357
- Village of Hope 410-860-5981

### Local Agencies

- HALO 410-742-9356
- HOPE 443-944-5279
- Joseph House Ministries 410-749-4239
- Urban Ministries 410-749-1563

### Other Agencies

- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) – Improving Learning through Research and Development  
<https://nche.ed.gov>
- School House Connection  
[schoolhouseconnection.org](http://schoolhouseconnection.org)
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty  
<https://nlchp.org>
- Runaway and Homeless Youth  
[acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth](http://acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth)
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)  
[naehcy.org](http://naehcy.org) • (866) 862-2562
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty  
[nlchp.org/](http://nlchp.org/) • (202) 638-2535

## Who is considered homeless for purposes of McKinney-Vento Act Protections?

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Section 725) guarantees school enrollment for “homeless children and youth” (school age and younger) who, *due to a lack of permanent housing*, live in inadequate or temporary settings, such as:

- In emergency or transitional shelters
- In motels, hotels, or campgrounds
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings
- Doubled up with relatives or friends due to economic hardship or other crisis
- Youth not living with parent or legal guardian and are living in these conditions
- Migratory students living in these conditions

### Local Homeless Education Liaison:

Division of Student and Family Services  
Wicomico County Public Schools  
410-677-4501  
[www.wcboe.org](http://www.wcboe.org)



Maryland State Department of Education  
Homeless Coordinator  
410-767-0314



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