



Your children may be eligible for certain rights and protections under the Federal McKinney-Vento Act. Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Does your family live in a homeless shelter, motel, campground, car, abandoned building or doubled up with other people due to loss of housing? If so, your children may have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education to which they are entitled;
- Be enrolled in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment;
- Be enrolled in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documentation;
- Enroll in the local school near where you are currently living; or continue attending your school of origin (the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which you were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible. If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your child, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and offer you the opportunity to appeal its decision;
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this;
- Receive free lunch and breakfast;
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to all other students, according to your child's need.

Any disputes regarding the enrollment or assignment of a homeless student will be referred to the Liaison for expeditious resolution. The Liaison should attempt to resolve disputes within five (5) school days. Any dispute which cannot be resolved by the Liaison should be reported to the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth at the Michigan Department of Education. According to State guidelines, the State Coordinator has an additional five (5) school days from the time of notification to bring about resolution. Individuals not satisfied with the State Coordinator's proposed resolution can appeal such decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within five (5) school days for final resolution of the dispute.

If you believe your children may be eligible for these benefits, contact the homeless liaison or a counselor for more information.

Marcy Russell, Homeless Liaison
(517) 589-8200 ext. 101

Jeana Allen, Counselor
(517) 589-8218 ext. 237

Danielle Ziehmer, Counselor
(517) 589-5151 ext. 330

Andrea Roach, Dean of School Services, Leslie Middle School
(517) 589-8218 ext. 224