



Franklin Monroe Local Schools

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Greetings Franklin Monroe Families,

As a district we are required to notify every household of the available supports for the education of children or youth experiencing homelessness. The attached information defines homeless, education rights, and the National Center for Homeless Education. For additional information please review the last page for resources and contact information.

Sincerely,

Franklin Monroe Schools

Who is Homeless?

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act defines the term “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including

- i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- iv. migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

For more information, download *Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services* at <https://nche.ed.gov/briefs.php>.

Educational Rights

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth 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 the school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), according to each student’s best interest.

* If the school district believes that the school selected is not in the student’s best interest, the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its position and inform the parent, guardian, or youth of the right to appeal its decision.

- receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student’s needs.



Supporting the Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



NCHE publications are supported through a contract with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Healthy Students. For more information, visit <http://ed.gov/programs/homeless/>.

<http://nche.ed.gov>



About NCHE

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. NCHE is based at the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

NCHE works with schools, service providers, parents, and other interested stakeholders to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness can enroll and succeed in school.

NCHE Resources

NCHE provides a variety of homeless education resources, available in electronic or hard copy format, including

- educational rights posters,
- enrollment reference foldouts,
- federal homeless education data reports,
- homeless liaison toolkits,
- issue briefs,
- NCHE brochures,
- parent brochures,
- parent pack pocket folders, and
- unaccompanied homeless youth booklets.

Visit <https://nche.ed.gov/products.php> to download or order NCHE resources.

NCHE Helpline

NCHE operates a toll-free helpline to assist educators, service providers, parents, community members, and others interested in the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Contact the NCHE helpline for assistance with

- understanding the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness,
- determining how the McKinney-Vento Act may apply to a particular situation, and
- locating contact information for State Coordinators for Homeless Education and local homeless education liaisons.

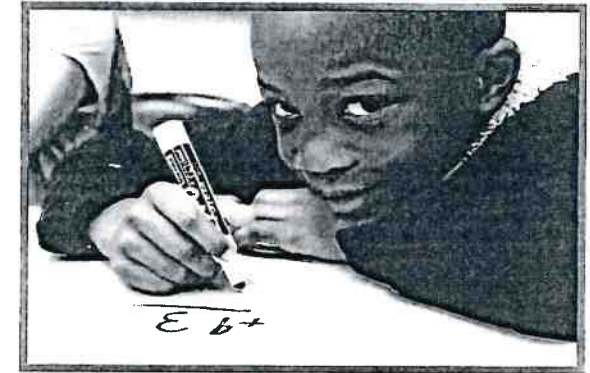
Contact the NCHE helpline at 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org.

NCHE Listserv

Through its listserv, NCHE keeps the homeless education field informed of new resources and happenings, including federal policy and practice updates, new NCHE products, NCHE webinar registration availability, and more. Visit <https://nche.ed.gov/listserv.php> to join.

"Through it all, school is probably the only thing that has kept me going. I know that every day that I walk in those doors, I can stop thinking about my problems for the next six hours and concentrate on what is most important to me."

Formerly Homeless Student



NCHE Website

The NCHE website serves as a comprehensive source of homeless education information. Visit the NCHE website at <http://nche.ed.gov> to

- download or order NCHE products;
- learn more about the McKinney-Vento Act and other laws pertaining to the education of students experiencing homelessness;
- search for information on topics such as McKinney-Vento eligibility, enrollment, transportation, preschool, higher education, and more; and
- learn more about homeless education in your state.

The definition of homelessness

The McKinney-Vento law says that homelessness includes individuals who do not have a fixed, regular and adequate home because they have lost their own home. This means:

- Individuals who have lost their own home, suffering a financial hardship or similar reason;
- Individuals who are sharing the housing of others;
- Individuals who are living in hotels or motels or in campgrounds or trailer parks that are not viewed as year-round homes because they do not have accommodations, such as heat or running water;
- Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or who have been abandoned in hospitals;
- Individuals who are living in cars, parks or public spaces.

The rights of homeless parents and their homeless students

- Your child may stay in the school he or she was in before becoming homeless or enroll in a school where the child is living for the time being;
- You may make this choice of schools with the best interests of your child in mind;
- Your child must receive the transportation he or she needs;
- You can expect to enroll your child in school without delay, even if you do not

have paperwork, such as your child's birth certificate or medical records;

- Your child has the right to receive free meals;
- Your child must receive the same special programs and services that other children receive, including special education, migrant education and vocational education;
- Your child must receive the same public education other children receive, including preschool.
- Your child cannot be separated from other students in a different school or different program because he or she is homeless;
- Your child may attend the school you choose, even if there is a dispute while the dispute is in the appeal process;
- After being placed in permanent housing, your child may stay in his or her original school for the rest of the school year and receive transportation to that school. This will provide stability for your child.

To help your student have stability, you can:

- Keep in touch with the school district's local contact person to update this person on changes that may occur with the child;
- Inform district contacts when you foresee a change in student's transportation needs;
- Make sure your student is going to school regularly;
- Ask the district contact person about help available in the community;

- Ask for more support for your child's education, if needed. This includes school supplies and support in learning, such as tutoring.

Your district contact person can help you:

- Understand your rights;
- Make a choice between schools;
- Get school records sent to another school;
- Get birth certificates and vaccination records
- Get information about help in the community, such as health, dental and mental health care and other services;
- Make sure your student has the needed academic support;
- Refer your student for early education services, including Head Start and intervention services;
- Connect your student with after-school programs and activities;
- Represent your needs as an unaccompanied youth; and
- Manage disputes about whether you or your child qualify for these services.



Resources

Ohio Department of Education Website
education.ohio.gov/McKinneyVento

LAU Resource Center for English Learners
education.ohio.gov/LAU • (614) 466-4109 •
lau@education.ohio.gov

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) – Improving Learning through Research and Development
nche.ed.gov/index.php

School House Connection
schoolhouseconnection.org/about-schoolhouse-connection

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
nlchp.org

Runaway and Homeless Youth
acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth

Coalition of Homelessness and Housing (COHHIO)
cohhio.org • (614) 280-1984

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
naehcy.org • (866) 862-2562

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
nlchp.org • (202) 638-2535

SERVE Improving Learning through Research and Development
center.serve.org/nche • (800) 308-2145 (toll-free)

State Homeless Liaison

Susannah Wayland
Ohio Department of Education
Center for Accountability and Continuous Improvement
Office of Federal Programs
25 S. Front St., Mail Stop 404,
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
Susannah.Wayland@education.ohio.gov

Phone: (614) 387-7725

Fax: (614) 752-1622

Toll-Free: (877) 644-6338

District Homeless Liaison

Phone:

Email:



A Parent's Guide to the Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness