

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program was designed to make sure all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as children and youth who are not homeless. This includes preschool education.

State and local educational agencies are required to develop, review and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance and success in school that homeless children and youth may experience.

Local educational agencies also must provide homeless children and youth with the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held.

Your child has the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there;
- Stay in the school that he or she was attending before becoming homeless or the school he or she last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if you do not have all the paperwork, such as your child's school or medical records;
- Access the same special programs and services that are provided to other children, including special education, migrant education and vocational education;
- Receive the same public education that is provided to other children including preschool. (Your child cannot be separated from mainstream school environment because he or she is homeless. He or she cannot be segregated in a separate school, separate programs within a school or separate setting within a school.)

If your child is assigned to a school not of your choosing, the school district must explain its decision in writing. You have the right to appeal the district's decision regarding the school to which your child has been

assigned. Your child has the right to go to the school of your choice while the dispute is being resolved.

You can help your child by:

- Making sure your child attends school every day;
- Reading to your child; even a few minutes a day makes a difference;

- Making education a family priority.
- Helping your child develop good study habits;
- Meeting with your child's teachers and other school personnel.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Buckner, Pupil Personnel Director, at 419-484-5000.