

When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education (see phone number on back) for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school (or someone at a shelter, social services office, or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact).
- Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances.
- Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Your right to be treated fairly...

Your child can participate in all the same school activities as other children:

- Before and after school programs
- Counseling
- School breakfast and lunch
- Special education; bilingual; vocational
- Gifted programs
- School supplies
- Title I programs

If you believe the educational rights of your child have been violated or your child has been discriminated against, you can file a complaint at the school through the Title X liaison.

For more information or further questions, please contact:

District Contact Information Here

Educational Service District #123

Toni Neidhold
Prevention Services
McKinney-Vento Liaison
3918 West Court Street
Pasco, WA 99301
(509) 544-5762
(888) 547-8441

www.esd123.org



**National Center for
Homeless Education at the toll-free
HelpLine: (800) 308-2145**

***Information for
Students & Families
Living in Transition***



**McKinney-Vento
Homeless
Education Assistance Act**



Educational Service District #123

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

YOU HAVE RIGHTS

If you are the parent or guardian of a school-aged child and are without permanent housing, your child has the right to go to school. (Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, rev. '01)

If you don't know where you are going to live next, keeping your child in the same school for the school year may be the best thing you can do for your child's education and emotional security.

Homeless/Living in Transition: What does it mean?

- Someone who doesn't have a "fixed, regular, or adequate place to live," including crowding too many people in one apartment
- Someone who is spending the night in a place not meant for sleeping (like a car or a condemned building)
- Someone who is staying at a temporary living place, such as a shelter or welfare hotel

What school should you choose? You have two choices:

- Keep your child in the school your child was attending before you lost housing (school of origin). Your child may continue at the school for as long as you are homeless or until the end of the school year.
- Enroll your child in the school nearest the temporary place where you are currently staying.

Your children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. If a school sends your child to a school other than the one you request, the school must provide you with a written explanation and offer you the right to appeal the decision.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Children cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your child.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

What records does the school need about my child?

- School records
- Birth certificate
- Immunization records

The school must *immediately* enroll your child even if you can't produce the records they need right away.

Proof of residency is not required for enrollments of homeless children. However, the school will need an address or some way to contact you. Records will help schools better serve you and your child.

Tips for working with the school:

Ask to speak with the district's Title X liaison if you have difficulty enrolling your child. If you are going to enroll a child in a new school, it will be helpful to bring along a letter from the shelter where you are staying, on the shelter's letterhead, stating that your child is staying there. If you are staying with relatives or in a motel, bring along a letter from your relatives or social worker (DSHS or private agency) stating where you and your child are staying.

Your responsibilities:

- If you are transferring your child, enroll your child in the new school right away.
- Ask the school for transportation if you need.
- Ask if special tutoring or counseling is available to help make up for lost school time.
- Meet with your child's teacher regularly to make sure your child is getting every appropriate program.
- Be sure your child attends school every day.