

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HARDEE COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1678
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1009 NORTH 6TH AVENUE
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873

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Dear District and School Staff:

Welcome back to another year. As many of you are aware, the **McKinney-Vento Act for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth** requires school districts to designate a local homeless liaison to carry out the duties described in the Act and to inform school personnel of these duties. I am the district's homeless liaison and my contact information is below:

Kathryn "Kitty" Maddox
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230 S. Florida Ave.
Wauchula, FL 33873

The duties of the liaison include ensuring that —

- i. homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- ii. (ii) homeless children and youths enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that district;
- iii. (iii) homeless families, children, and youths receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;
- iv. (iv) the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- v. (v) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services under this Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
- vi. (vi) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act; and
- vii. (vii) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin (the school the student attended when he became homeless or last school attended) and is assisted in accessing transportation to the selected school.

Last year, our district identified **189** homeless students, mostly through the efforts of school staff. Also, as the liaison, I will be following up with you in the near future and providing technical assistance and training this year for school staff. I will also provide you with brochures and posters of the public notice of the educational rights of homeless students. Th

ese should be displayed in areas at
your school where families and students may frequent such as the registrar's office, main office, etc. If
you need further information, please contact me.

Thank you,
Kathryn "Kitty" Maddox
District Title I Resource Teacher/Homeless Liaison