

# Homeless Education

**A “homeless child” is defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. A homeless child’s parent(s) or guardian(s) have lost permanent residence and my now live with friends or family, in a shelter, motel, car or other place that is not a conventional place to reside. Each child of a homeless individual and each unaccompanied homeless youth have equal access to the same free appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth. A homeless child may attend the district school that the child attended when permanently housed or the district school in which the child last enrolled. The District’s Homeless Liaisons are available to address any questions and/or concerns regarding homeless students.**

## **Liaison for Homeless Students**

The Homeless Liaison will coordinate activities and programs in the best interest of homeless students that will include but not be limited to establishment procedures to:

- Continue the student's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness; in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or for the remainder of the academic year, if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year.
- Enroll the student in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.
- Coordinate and inform parents of transportation to and from the school, if feasible, using the school transportation system.
- Ensure that all staff are trained regarding homelessness.
- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the law.
- Inform parents and guardians of educational and related opportunities available to their children in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Educational Act.

## **Services and related opportunities for students include:**

- Free meals
- Immediate enrollment without records
- Tutoring or other instructional support
- Expedited evaluations or testing
- Transportation if needed and/or qualify
- Early Childhood programs
- Clothing to meet school requirements
- Counseling
- Coordination between schools and agencies
- Participation in all school activities
- Help obtain and transfer records needed for registration
- Before/After-school, mentoring

- Parent education related to rights and resources
- School supplies
- Obtaining or transferring records necessary for enrollment
- Referrals for medical, dental and other health services

For more information please contact:

Lisa Bateman – District Homeless Liaison

309-547-2231     [lbateman@lewistown97.net](mailto:lbateman@lewistown97.net)

Websites to visit:

[www.isbe.net/homeless/](http://www.isbe.net/homeless/)

National Center for Homeless Education 1-800-308-2145

[www.serve.org.nche](http://www.serve.org.nche)

ISBE Homeless Forms: <http://isbe.net/htm/forms.htm>

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)-

1-512-475-8765, [www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org)

National Coalition for Homeless (NCH) 1-202-638-2535 ext.18

[www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)