



MOVING?



Before you withdraw your children from school!!

- ◆ Contact the school district's social workers for homeless education for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her current school (contact information located on the front of brochure).
- ◆ Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances.

Domestic Violence Information:

Domestic Violence Crisis Line - 251-342-8994

Domestic Violence Prevention Information Line - 251-342-2809



It Starts With Us

You are not alone.
We are here to HELP!

You may contact the school district's social workers for assistance with uniforms, supplies, community referrals (i.e. dental, medical, or mental health) and other support services (i.e. information about domestic violence, violence prevention and behavioral counseling).

National Center for Homeless Education Hotline:

1-800-308-2145

HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM



Mobile County Public Schools Division of Student Support Services

*Martha Peek, Superintendent
LaDonna Rudolph, State Coordinator*

For assistance, please contact:

Denise Riemer, LCSW, PIP
(251) 508-6671 - Cell
Email: driemer@mcpss.com

Larissa Dickinson, LCSW, PIP
(251) 490-9952 - Cell
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Homeless Education Law

Right to a Free, Public Education



The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is funded under the McKinney –Vento Homeless Assistance Act to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the same free, appropriate public education that is provided to all children. It further requires that attendance laws not be used to keep homeless children and youth from attending school.

Who is Homeless?

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines “homeless children and youth” (school-age and younger) as:

- ◆ Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:
 - ◆ Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e. “doubled-up”).
 - ◆ Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
 - ◆ Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
 - ◆ Abandoned in hospitals.
 - ◆ Awaiting foster care placement.
- ◆ Children and youth 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.
- ◆ Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- ◆ Migrant children who qualify as homeless if they are living in circumstances described above.
- ◆ The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a young person not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to as “throwaway children and youth”); and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

Determinations of homelessness will be made on a case-by-case basis by the homeless education department (221-4275). We will use the definition above but also consider the *relative permanence of the living arrangements*.

For Parents of Homeless Children

Your children have the right to:

- ◆ Enroll immediately without providing transcripts/school records, immunization/health records, proofs of residency, guardianship/custody requirements, birth certificates, and/or social security cards/numbers.
- ◆ 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 and special education services provided to other children in our school system.
- ◆ Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or in their current school of enrollment, if that is your choice and it is feasible.
- ◆ A written explanation of school placement and the right to appeal an enrollment decision if school system personnel attempt to send your child to a school other than the one you request.
- ◆ A written dispute resolution process. During this process, your child has the right to remain in his/her current school.
- ◆ Be transported to school and to school-related programs
- ◆ Attend 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.
- ◆ Receive free meal eligibility through the Child Nutrition Program (CNP).
- ◆ Obtain a student identification number in the event that a social security card/number is unavailable. These numbers will be assigned by the Homeless Education Department at 221-4275. Please call if you need assistance.