

# Information for Parents

## If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer or other inadequate accommodations
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find affordable housing

Then, your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

### 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 children.
- 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.

### When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education (see phone number below) 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.

#### Local Area Contact:

**Deborah Hemphill**  
**Marin County Office of Education**  
**(415) 499-5811**  
**email - [dhemp@marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:dhemp@marin.k12.ca.us)**

#### State Coordinator:

**Leanne Wheeler**  
**(916) 319-0383**  
**[Lwheeler@cde.ca.gov](mailto:Lwheeler@cde.ca.gov)**

If you need further assistance, call the National Center for Homeless Education at the toll-free Helpline number:  
**1-800-308-2145**

