EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH LACKING FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE HOUSING

Families should know:

- You do not need a permanent address to enroll your child in school.
- Your child cannot be denied school enrollment when school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- Your child may be able to remain in the same school (school of origin) even if you move.
- When in your child's best interest, he or she has the right to request transportation assistance.
- Schools must provide you with a written explanation if a placement dispute occurs, and you may appeal the school's decision.
- Your child automatically qualifies to participate in free breakfast and lunch programs.
- Your child has the right to participate in extracurricular activities and all federal, state, or local programs for which he/she is eligible.

Youth not accompanied by a parent or guardian and lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing have these same rights.

AT SCHOOL, ASK ABOUT THESE SERVICES

- Basic school supplies
- Before and after school programs
- Contact information for community agencies and helpful resources
- Credit recovery options
- Gifted or talented programs
- Homeless assistance programs
- Mentoring programs
- Preschool programs
- Programs to help children learn English
- Special education programs for students with disabilities, especially if the student has previously received special education services
- Summer school programs
- Tutoring programs

Schools give children and youth experiencing homelessness hope and a chance for a better future.

If you have questions, contact the school division's local homeless education liaison or Project HOPE-Virginia.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES WHO MOVE OFTEN

- Keep a copy of birth certificates and school records accessible.
- Safeguard all health and immunization records.
- Have a reliable person keep a second copy of the child's birth certificate, school records, and health information.
- Enroll children in school as soon as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE MOVING

- Tell your child's teacher and principal that your child is moving and give them the new address.
- Let school officials know if you want your child to stay in his/her school of origin while you are getting the family stabilized.
- Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including immunizations.
The federal McKinney-Vento Act guarantees school enrollment for anyone who, due to a lack of permanent housing, lives in inadequate or temporary settings, such as:
- Emergency shelters or transitional housing
- Motels, hotels, or campgrounds due to lack of an adequate alternative
- Cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings
- Doubled up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship

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Paid for by funds from the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCV) Program through the Virginia Department of Education