

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.

AGENCY INFORMATION LIST

The following contacts may be useful resources to families and children experiencing homelessness.

- Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline**
www.dss.virginia.gov/abuse/index2.cgi
800-552-7096
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline**
www.childhelp.org
800-422-4453
- Cover Virginia - Medicaid & FAMIS**
www.coverva.org
855-242-8282
- Free Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit**
www.irs.gov/eitc
800-829-1040
- Hill Burton Free and Reduced-Cost Hospital Care**
www.hrsa.gov/gethealthcare/affordable/hillburton
800-638-0742
- National Center for Homeless Education**
www.serve.org/nche
800-308-2145
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center**
http://traffickingresourcecenter.org
888-373-7888
- National Runaway Safeline**
www.1800runaway.org
800-786-2929
- SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**
www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/foodstamp.cgi
800-552-3431
- Social Security Administration Hotline**
www.ssa.gov
800-772-1213
- Virginia Housing Development Authority**
www.vhda.com
877-843-2123
- Virginia Legal Aid**
http://vlas.org/
866-534-5243
- Virginia School Immunization Requirements**
www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements
800-568-1929
- VA Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance**
www.vsdvalliance.org
804-377-0335

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



Virginia Department of Education
The College of William and Mary – SOE
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795
Office: (757) 221-4002
Toll Free in Virginia (877) 455-3412
homlss@wm.edu | www.wm.edu/hope

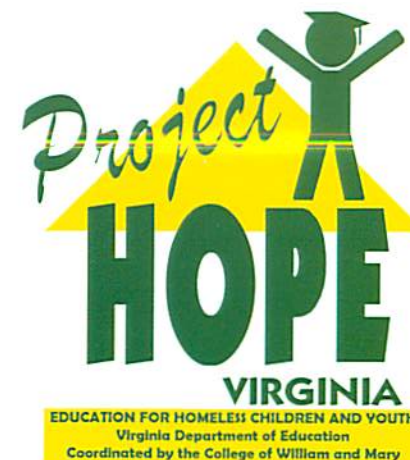
Local Homeless Education Liaison:

Lisa Simes
McKinney Vento Liaison
School Social Work Services
804-639-8713
Lisa_Simes@ccpsnet.net

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What Families Need to Know

Your Child Can Enroll in School...



Even if you have:

- Uncertain Housing
- A Temporary Address
- No Permanent Physical Address