

HOMELESS STUDENTS - SUMMARY OF RIGHTS

District Homeless Program Coordinator: Monica McRho, 277-6892/ monicamc@scusd.edu
If a student in Sacramento City Unified School District is homeless, call 277-6892 immediately.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT: EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTHS

Students are homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, & adequate nighttime residence which includes:

- A public/private place that is not designed for or normally used as a place for sleeping
- In a motel/hotel, campground, or trailer due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- In a shelter/transitional housing program
- Cars, parks/public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus/train stations, or similar settings
- Temporarily moved in with others due to loss of housing or financial problems (eviction, job loss, etc.)
- Homeless students also include unaccompanied youth, runaways, children abandoned in hospitals, and migratory children who live in the conditions described above.

Student rights under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

Educational Rights Holder (ERH): The adult who has the legal right to make educational decisions for a student or a student who has the legal right to make her/his own educational decisions.

- **Enrollment/School selection:** The district shall, according to the student's best interest, enroll the homeless student per below. In determining best interest, the school shall, to the extent feasible, keep a homeless student at the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the ERH.
 1. **School of Origin:** Continue the homeless student at their *school of origin* for the duration of homelessness. The *school of origin* is defined as the school attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the student was last enrolled, or a school the student attended within the last fifteen months
 2. **Feeder School:** If the homeless student is transitioning between grade levels, the student may continue in the school district of origin in the same feeder school pattern (attendance area)
 3. **School of residence:** The homeless student may enroll in the public school serving the attendance area for the student's address, for which the student is eligible to attend.
 4. If the student becomes permanently housed during the academic year & is no longer homeless
 - K-8 grades: The student may continue in school of origin for the remainder of the academic year
 - 9-12 grades: The student may continue in school of origin through graduation.
- **Immediate Enrollment:** The new school shall immediately enroll the homeless student even if the student has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or moneys due to the school last attended or is unable to produce a school uniform or records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, proof of residency, medical records or other documentation (including, but not limited to, records or other proof of immunization pursuant to Chapter 1, Section 12032, Part 2 of Division 105, Health and Safety Code). *Students may receive a grace period or Conditional Enrollment in which to submit missing records.*
- If a decision is made to send the student to a school other than the one selected above by the ERH, a written explanation, including the right to appeal, will be given to the ERH, and they will be referred to the Homeless Program Coordinator, who will facilitate the dispute resolution and appeal process. *The student has the right to be immediately enrolled in the school selected by the ERH until the dispute and appeal are resolved.*
- The student has a right to attend school & participate in all eligible school activities.
- The student automatically qualifies for free school meals.
- The student may receive necessary transportation assistance to continue at school of origin.
- For unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Program Coordinator will assist with enrollment, placement and dispute resolution.
- Preschool students have special rights too. Please call for information.



For Students Enrolled in Sacramento City Unified School District

HOMELESS STUDENTS- RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS HOLDER

The Educational Rights Holder is the adult who has the legal right to make educational decisions for a student or a student who has the legal right to make her/his own educational decisions.

To receive & maintain homeless rights under the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: Education for Homeless Children and Youths":

- Immediately:
 - Contact the *Homeless Program Coordinator* to determine your student's eligibility for homeless rights. Once eligibility is determined, the student will be registered under the homeless program and will have access to homeless rights and services. During the year, immediately notify the Homeless Program Coordinator of all changes in schools and all changes in phone number, address, & housing situation, even if you move into a primary/permanent residence and are no longer homeless.
 - Notify the school of the student's homeless situation. If registering a homeless student at the Enrollment Center or a school site, notify the staff of your situation.
 - When district staff, including the Homeless Program Coordinator, requests information or an appointment/meeting with you, respond within 2 working days or by the given due date. Requested information may include, but not be limited to, housing, address, contact information, a *Declaration of Residence*, student enrollment & attendance, etc.
 - To extend homeless rights to the next year, contact the Homeless Program Coordinator between June 1-30 (of the current school year) & submit all required information by the given due date. Students may be exited from the homeless program on June 30th unless their homeless rights are extended to the next year.
 - Before you disenroll or transfer your child to another school, consult with the Homeless Program Coordinator regarding enrollment rights & services.
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- All siblings in the family will be designated homeless using the same information unless parent indicates otherwise.
 - Appropriate school staff will be notified on a confidential need-to-know basis.
 - Make sure the student attends school regularly and is on time.
 - If the student will be absent, please notify the school immediately with the reason for the absence and the length of time the student will be out of school.
 - A student's homeless designation may be changed if there is evidence the student's situation or address has changed or McKinney-Vento eligibility has not been determined.
 - Making false claims of residency and homelessness for the purposes of enrollment, attendance, and/or to obtain homeless rights and services is illegal, will be investigated, and will result in disenrollment proceedings.

Homeless Program Coordinator: Monica McRho

Parker Family Resource Center & Homeless Services Office (PFRC)

(916) 277-6892 / monicamc@scusd.edu

Non-English speakers: Please call with an interpreter