

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act Rights of Homeless Students

The school shall create an environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have equal access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the rights of homeless children, youth, and youth not living with a parents or guardian, applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

A student is considered “homeless” if he or she is living:

- In a shelter
- Sharing housing with relatives or others due to lack of housing
- In a motel / hotel, camping ground or similar situation due to lack of alternative, adequate housing
- At a train or bus station, park, car or abandoned building
- Temporarily housed while waiting for DCFS care placement

All homeless students have the right to:

- Immediate school enrollment. (a school must immediately enroll students even if they lack health, immunization or school records, proof of guardianship or proof of residency.)
- Enroll in: the school he or she attended when permanently housed; the school in which he or she was last enrolled; any school that non-homeless students living in the same attendance area in which the homeless child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
- Remain enrolled in his or her selected school for as long as he or she is homeless or if the student becomes permanently housed until the end of the academic year.
- Priority in certain preschool programs.
- Participate in a tutorial-instructional support program, school-related activities, and or receive other support services.
- Obtain information on how to get fee waivers, free uniforms, and low-cost or free medical referrals.
- Transportation services: A homeless student attending his or her school of origin has a right to transportation to go to and from the school of origin as long as he or she is homeless or if the student becomes permanently housed until the end of the academic year.

Dispute resolution: If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation, or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint with the school district. The school district must respond and attempt to resolve it quickly. The school district must refer you to free and low cost legal services to help you, if you wish. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school and provided transportation until the matter is resolved. Every Illinois Public School has a Homeless education program Liaison who will assist you in making enrollment and placement decisions, providing notice of any appeal process, and filling out dispute forms.

Local Contact: Angie McGrath (309) 286-4451

If you have questions about enrollment in a school, or want more information about the rights of homeless students in Illinois Public schools, call the appropriate Regional Homeless education Liaison from the listing below or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (1-800) 215-6379.

Area 1	(815) 740-8360	Cook (outside City of Chicago), DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will counties
Area 2	(815) 652-2054	Boone, Bureau, Carroll, DeKalb, Henry, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago, Woodford counties
Area 3	(309) 837-4821	Adams, Brown, Cass, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, Logan, Mason, McDonough, Menard, mercer, Morgan, Peoria, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Tazwell, Warren counties
Area 4	(815) 937- 2950	Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston, Macon, Mclean, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, Vermillion counties
Area 5	(618) 283-1673	Bond, Calhoun, Christian, Clinton, Effingham, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington counties
Area 6	(618) 998-9226	Alexander, Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White, Williamson counties
Area 7	(773) 553-2242	City of Chicago