

Who helps families and youth experiencing homelessness?

Every school district must have a person in charge of making sure all homeless students can enroll and succeed in school.

CIT Advocates and Liaisons will help you with school enrollment, documents, withdrawal, transportation and access to district nutrition, health, and counseling services.

WCSD Children in Transition:

Program Coordinator:

Katie Morales
775-353-6938

CIT Office
Community Assistance Center
335 Record St
353-6930
Fax: 333-6008

Parents can help their children be successful at school by:

- Having your child's immunization records up-to-date and available when enrolling your child.
- Providing a certified copy of your child's birth certificate to your child's school.
- Meeting your child's **Children in Transition (CIT) Advocate**, teachers, and counselor.
- Giving your child's school an emergency phone number so you can be reached while your child is in school.
- Feeding your child a nutritious breakfast or letting the school know your child has not had breakfast.
- Talking to your child's teacher, **CIT Advocate**, counselor, or nurse about any problems.

Education is a Right

Your child's school is your partner who values your thoughts and ideas. Involvement is most important in your child's success. You are your child's first and most important teacher.

If you need further information, call the National Center for Homeless Education at the toll-free Help line number:
1-800-308-2145

Children in Transition Program: Supporting Children & Youth in Homeless Situations



Washoe County School District
Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation™



Child & Family Services Department

CONNECTING ALL OF THE PIECES

Child & Family Services
Director

Tina Springmeyer

Information about School-Aged Youth in Homeless Situations

Annually, over one million children and youth experience homelessness. Schools can give these students stability, security, and a safe place to grow.

Almost 18 years ago, Congress passed a law, now called the McKinney-Vento Act, that gives children and youth in homeless situations certain education rights. This pamphlet uses non-legal terms to outline an understanding of these basic rights.

Under the Act, students are homeless if they are:

- Living with a friend or relative because they lost their home and cannot afford a home.
- Living in a motel or hotel, for example, due to an eviction.
- Living in an emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelter.
- Living in a car, park, or abandoned building.
- Living in a camper, RV, fifth wheel, or tent.
- Awaiting foster care placement at the Kids Kottage.
- Runaway or abandoned youth.
- Living on the street.

Homeless Children and Youth have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education provided to other students, including preschool education.
- If feasible, continue in the school they attended before they became homeless, or go to the zoned school where they are now living. The school's Children in Transition Advocate will help with and offer the right to appeal a decision regarding choice of school.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency which might delay or prevent school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while any dispute is resolved.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before they became homeless or the school they last attended.
- Attend a school and participate in school activities and programs with

students who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from regular school programs because they are homeless.

- Attend special classes and receive services, if needed, as provided to all other students.

If a child qualifies as CIT, they can:

- Contact the Children in Transition Advocate at your school or the school district's Children in Transition Liaisons, for help in arranging to continue in your former school or enrolling in the zone school.
- Tell your new teachers anything that you think they need to know to help you adjust in the new school.
- Ask any of the following people for assistance with backpacks, school supplies, personal care items or health and dental services, if needed:
 - The school's CIT Advocate
 - The Liaisons for homeless education, or
 - A social agency provider

Ask for the name of your school's
CIT Advocate!