



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. Over 20 years ago, Congress passed a law, now called the **McKinney-Vento Act**. This law gives children and youth in homeless situations certain educational rights. The Washoe County School District's Children in Transition program is committed to serving our children and youth experiencing homelessness. Homeless liaisons work in partnership with school advocates and families to identify and address basic needs. This collaborative effort ensures that all barriers to the student's education are eliminated for children to successfully attend and participate in school.

Basic functions:

- Every school district must have a person in charge of making sure all homeless students can enroll and succeed in school
- Students in homeless situations must have access to the educational and other services they need to ensure that they have an equal opportunity to meet the same academic achievement standards to which all students are held.
- Children in Transition Advocates and Liaisons will help with school enrollment documents, basic needs, school supplies, transportation and access to district nutrition, health and counseling services.
- WCSD has five homeless liaisons, a family advocate, and a homeless advocate at each school dedicated to identifying and ensuring the needs of students are met.

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
- 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
- Unaccompanied, run away or abandoned youth



Homeless Children and Youth have the right to:

- Go to school, and be given access to the same public education provided to other students, including preschool education.
- If feasible, continue in the school your child attended before you became homeless, or go to the zoned school where you are now living.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or other documents required for enrollment.
- Attend a school and participate in school activities and programs with students who are not homeless.
- Attend special classes and receive services, if needed, as provided to all other students.
- Receive transportation to the extent feasible to the school you attended before you became homeless.