

## 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 (such as birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records, or previous school records) are not immediately available.
- ❖ Your child may be eligible to remain in the same school (school of origin) even if you move; or, to attend the school where you are temporarily residing.
- ❖ Your child has the right to transportation services to and from the school of origin.
- ❖ Schools will 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.
- ❖ Unaccompanied youth lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing have these same rights.



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## Supporting the Education of Children and Youth Without Permanent Housing

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**The Federal McKinney-Vento Act** (Title IX-A of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) ensures that students who lack a fixed and regular nighttime residence are provided a free, public education. Such as:

- ❖ Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals.
- ❖ Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- ❖ Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or Train stations, or similar settings; and
- ❖ Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.

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### *At School, Ask About These Services*

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- ❖ *Tutoring Programs*
- ❖ *Programs to help Children learn English*
- ❖ *Gifted or Talented Programs*
- ❖ *Summer School Programs*
- ❖ *Preschool Programs*
- ❖ *Before and After School Programs*
- ❖ *Homeless Assistance Programs*
- ❖ *Mentoring Programs*
- ❖ *Special Education Programs for students with disabilities, especially if the student has previously received special education services.*

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### *School Professionals May Also Provide*

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- ❖ *Quiet time or a personal space to allow your child to complete homework at school.*
- ❖ *Basic school supplies.*
- ❖ *Contact information for community agencies and helpful resources.*

### **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.

**Children and youth living in these settings meet the criteria for the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and have special educational rights.**

**Every district is required by law to have a Homeless Education Liaison. Contact information for Local Liaisons may be found at**  
[http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/homeless\\_edu/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/homeless_edu/)