

## WHO IS HOMELESS?

(McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 – Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act – Sec 725)

The term “homeless children and youth”—

A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and

B. includes —

- i. children and youths 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; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- ii. children and youths 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...
- iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- iv. migratory children...who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

- ▶ Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there
- ▶ Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled
- ▶ Receive transportation to and from the school of origin
- ▶ Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records
- ▶ Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records
- ▶ Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services
- ▶ Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student’s status as homeless is prohibited



National Center for Homeless Education  
Toll-free Helpline: 800-308-2145  
Website: <http://www.serve.org/nche>  
E-mail: [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)



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**Supporting  
the Education  
of Children  
and Youth  
Experiencing  
Homelessness**



**SERVE Center**  
at the University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro

## WHAT IS NCHE?

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) is an information clearinghouse and technical assistance center in support of the homeless education community nationwide. NCHE is funded through the U.S. Department of Education and is housed at the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. NCHE:

- ▶ Supports educators, service providers, parents, community members, and others interested in the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Provides information and resources on the needs and educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Provides information and training about the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness



## NCHE RESOURCES

- ▶ Awareness folders
- ▶ Educational rights posters
- ▶ Enrollment reference foldouts
- ▶ Informational booklets for youth on their own
- ▶ Informational folders and brochures for parents
- ▶ Informational publications on best practices
- ▶ Issue briefs
- ▶ Training and reference materials for state coordinators and local liaisons
- ▶ Materials for supporting children and youth displaced by disaster



## NCHE HELPLINE

800-308-2145 • [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)

NCHE operates a toll-free helpline to assist educators, service providers, parents, community members, and others interested in the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Contact the NCHE Helpline for assistance with:

- ▶ Understanding the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Determining how the McKinney-Vento Act applies to a particular situation
- ▶ Finding contact information for state coordinators and local liaisons

Call the NCHE Helpline at 800-308-2145 or e-mail [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org).

## NCHE LISTSERV

NCHE's Homeless Education Listserv provides colleagues across the nation with a forum for communicating about emerging issues in the field of homeless education, including the application of the McKinney-Vento Act and strategies for protecting the educational rights of homeless children and youth. For more information or to join the listserv, contact NCHE at [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org).

**NCHE WEBSITE**  
<http://www.serve.org/nche>

NCHE's website is a comprehensive source of information on homeless education.

- ▶ Order NCHE products free of charge
- ▶ Learn more about the McKinney-Vento Act and other laws pertaining to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Search for information on topics such as identification, enrollment, transportation, unaccompanied youth, dispute resolution, and more
- ▶ View or download training materials
- ▶ Learn more about homeless education in your state
- ▶ Download materials from other states and communities that can be customized and used in your community including brochures, posters, policies, and more

THROUGH IT ALL, SCHOOL IS PROBABLY THE ONLY THING THAT HAS KEPT ME GOING. I KNOW THAT EVERY DAY THAT I WALK IN THOSE DOORS, I CAN STOP THINKING ABOUT MY PROBLEMS FOR THE NEXT SIX HOURS AND CONCENTRATE ON WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME."

FORMERLY HOMELESS STUDENT

