

Resources

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

Education.ohio.gov/McKinneyVento
HomelessEducation@education.ohio.gov

LAU Resource Center for English Learners

education.ohio.gov/LAU • (614) 466-4109
lau@education.ohio.gov

Runaway and Homeless Youth

acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homelessyouth

Coalition of Homelessness and Housing (COHHIO)

cohhio.org • (614) 280-1984

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

nlchp.org • (202) 638-2535

State Homeless Liaison

Susannah Wayland

Ohio Department of Education Center for Accountability and Continuous Improvement
Improvement, Office of Federal Programs
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Columbus, OH 43215-4183

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District Homeless Liaison

Mrs. Connie Moores, Director of Pupil Services

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**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

A Parent's Guide To The Rights Of Children And Youth Experiencing Homelessness

*Is your child struggling to succeed in
school because of your current
living situation?*

Am I experiencing homelessness?

- Is your living situation uncertain?
- Are you staying with friends or relatives due to financial hardship or loss of housing?
- Are you staying in a motel, hotel, car, or camping ground?
- Are you staying in a shelter?
- Is your housing lacking water, heat, or electricity?
- Is your housing infested with mold, pests, or other environmental hazards?

If you answered **yes** to any of the above questions, you and your child may be eligible for certain rights and protections under the McKinney-Vento Act.

What are my rights?

If you are experiencing homelessness, you and your child(ren) have certain rights and protections under federal law:

- Your child may remain enrolled in the school they were attending before experiencing homelessness or immediately enroll in a new school in the district in which you are currently staying;
 - You may make this choice of schools with the best interest of your child in mind;
 - Your child must receive transportation to and from their school of choice;

What are my rights? (cont.)

- Your child is granted immediate access to free meals;
- Your child must receive the same public education that other children receive, including preschool and after-school activities; and
- After finding permanent housing, your child may remain in their original school for the remainder of the school year.

To learn more about your rights and determine your eligibility for services, contact your school or district's **homeless education liaison**.

What is a homeless education liaison?

Every community school and public district is required by law to have a homeless education liaison, whose role is to support you and your child by:

- Providing you with information about your rights;
- Helping you make a choice between schools;
- Ensuring your child has transportation to and from school;
- Connecting you to community resources;
- Making sure your child has the needed academic support; and
- Managing disputes about whether you or your child qualify for these services.



How can I support my child?

You can play a key role in supporting your child's educational stability by:

- Keeping in touch with your homeless education liaison;
- Letting the district know if your child's transportation needs change;
- Communicating about potential barriers to your child's attendance and participation;
- Asking about referrals to community resources; and
- Helping your child attend school regularly.

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