

Every Child Has the Right to an Education

If, due to a loss of housing, you must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground; on the street; in abandoned buildings; or doubled-up with relatives or friends; then you are eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Your children have the right to:

- ▲ Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.
- ▲ Continue in the school they last attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible.
- ▲ Receive transportation to the school they last attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian requests such transportation.
- ▲ Participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- ▲ Enroll in school without giving a permanent address.
- ▲ Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- ▲ Enroll and attend classes in the school where you are seeking enrollment even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your child.
- ▲ Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.



Questions for Parents to Ask at School

Children can be encouraged by your interest in their day at school, their homework, and the papers they bring from school.



They also benefit when you take time to ask questions about school or visit their school.

Here are some questions for you to ask at your child's school:

- ▲ Who is the local liaison for homeless education?
- ▲ What transportation is available for my child to stay in the same school?
- ▲ If we have to change schools, can someone help us transfer records quickly?
- ▲ Is there a preschool program?
- ▲ Is there a summer school program?
- ▲ What tutoring services are available for my child?
- ▲ If my child needs special education services, how long is the wait for testing?
- ▲ If my child has a certain talent, are there special classes to benefit that talent?
- ▲ Can my child be part of sports, music, or other activities?
- ▲ How can my child receive free meals at school?
- ▲ Where are school supplies available?
- ▲ Will my child be able to go on class field trips if we are unable to pay?

Free Lunch and Breakfast Program

Public school children benefit from federal school nutrition programs that provide nutritious meals. Free breakfast and lunches are available to homeless children if they qualify for McKinney-Vento services.



Special Education

Florida children between ages 3 and 22 who are eligible for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Programs, may receive a variety of services provided through the public school system. If a homeless child has an identified disability, he or she may be eligible for special education services. Parents who believe their child may qualify for special education should request an education evaluation at the child's school. If eligible, the student will then receive special education instruction and related services according to his/her Individual Education Plan. You may contact either the ESE or Student Services Department in your school district for additional information about programs for students with disabilities.



What are schools required to do under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act?

Schools must keep children in the school of origin (the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or where last enrolled) to the extent feasible, except where contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian. The child or youth's right to attend their school of origin extends throughout the entire duration of homelessness.

Schools must remove any barriers that contribute to exclusion or enrollment delay. This means schools are required to immediately enroll children and youth experiencing homelessness and then follow up to retrieve missing school records, immunization records, etc.

Each school must post the contact information of the district's Homeless Education Liaison.

Each school must post public notice of educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Schools must ensure enrollment with full and equal opportunity for students to succeed in school (i.e., Head Start, Even Start, preschool, health care, dental, mental health, etc).



Florida Department of Education

Local Area Contacts:

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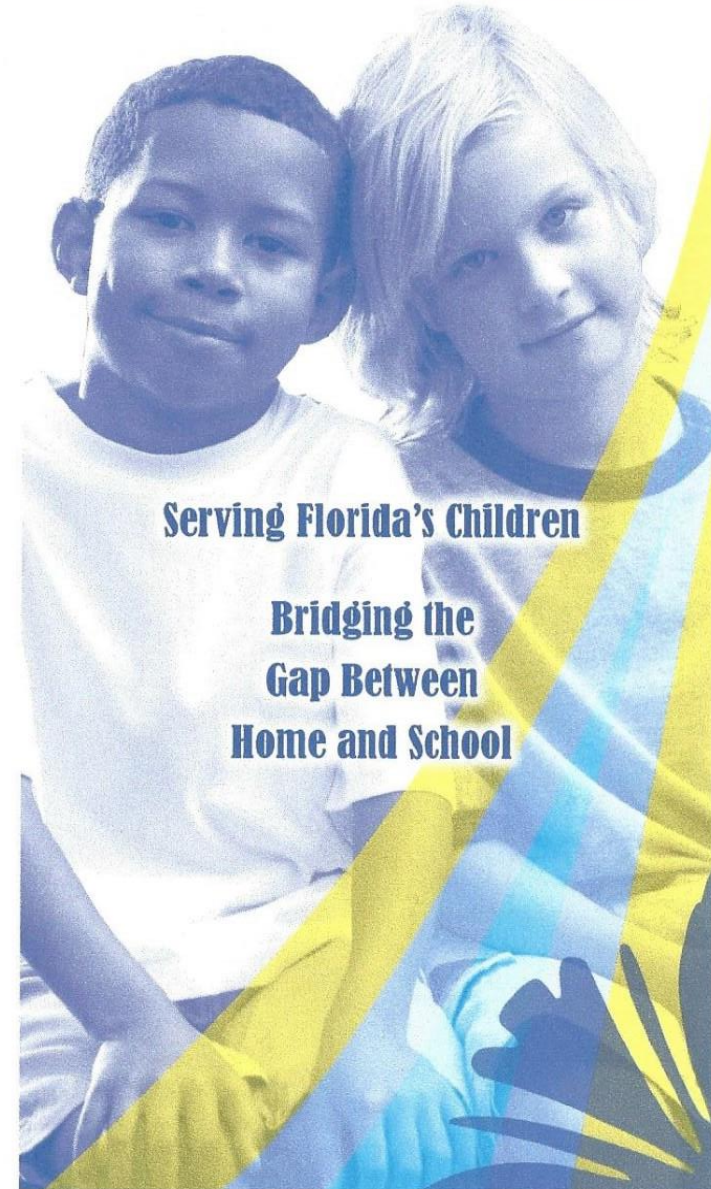
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Florida Homeless Education

Bureau of Federal Educational Programs



Serving Florida's Children

Bridging the
Gap Between
Home and School