

## TIPS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS



If you have been displaced and are living in temporary housing, **YOU HAVE RIGHTS** regarding the education of your children under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act.

**Know Who Can Help?** All public school districts are required to have a staff person designated as the districts homeless liaison. Ask to speak to them and or you can reach out to the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program office. There are eight regional offices in the state of Pennsylvania. Contact information listed below.

### Know Your Rights

**\*School Choice:** if you move into temporary housing, your children have two (2) school choices. They can stay in the same school they went to when you had a permanent address (most recent school enrolled in and attended), or you can transfer them to the school district for the area of where you are currently staying. This includes public preschool programs administered by a school district.

**\*Immediate Enrollment:** you can enroll your children in school without the usually required documents. The school must enroll your children even without immunization forms, birth certificates, proof of address, or guardianship papers. After your children are enrolled, the school can help you get any needed records.

**\*Transportation:** if your children stay in their same school, they can get free transportation to/from that school. If you move from temporary to permanent housing during the school year, your children will still get transportation for at least the rest of the school year. This may include preschool aged students.

**\*Free Meals and Title I Services:** your children can get free meals at school. You do not need to fill out any forms about your family's finances. Students in temporary housing can also get Title I services, including school supplies, counseling, tutoring, etc.

**\*Help from McKinney-Vento Liaison:** the liaison is a staff person who will help you enroll your child in school and connect you and your family with services.

### What is the Parents and Guardians Responsibility?

It is your responsibility, and the state law requires you, to ensure that your children ages 8 to 17 (starting in school year 20/21, the ages change to 6 to 18) are required to be enrolled in and attending school.

### Keep Track of Important Documents

You have the right to enroll your children without documents or records. But it will be helpful if you do try to keep things like immunization and health records, birth certificates and academic records, such as individualized education plans (IEPs). If your current living situation makes it difficult to keep records, ask someone who you trust to keep them for you.



## **What is a Dispute Arises Over School Selection or Placement?**

A school must do the following:

- \*provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written statement of the school decision and your right to appeal. The written notice must outline specific reasons for the school's decision.
- \*district liaison should assist the household in preparing the appeal and should make the resources of the school available to the household.
- \*refer the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to the Regional Coordinator, that covers their school district, to investigate and provide a ruling in the matter within a timely manner.

## **Ask the Right Questions**

- \*Can I talk with the McKinney-Vento liaison? How can I contact them?
- \*What transportation is available for my child?
- \*If my child changes schools, who can help us transfer records quickly?
- \*Who can help set up free meal for my child?
- \*How can my child receive free school supplies, if needed?
- \*Who can help if my child needs special education services? How quickly can these services be set up?
- \*What if my child needs English Language Learning (ELL) services?
- \*What academic help is available for my child, such as Title I programs or after-school tutoring?
- \*How can my child go on class field trips or participate in other school activities if I can't pay for them?
- \*Is there a preschool program from my younger children?

**Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH)**

**Region 3 Office**

**York Learning Center**

**300 E. 7th Ave.**

**York, PA 17404**

**Sonia Pitzi, Regional Coordinator—[spitzi@iu12.org](mailto:spitzi@iu12.org)—717-718-5924**

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