



PROJECT
HOPE
VIRGINIA

Important Information for **Your Young Child's Development**

Parent Pack



What should I keep in this folder?

- Birth certificates
- Immunization records
- Other health records
- Documents from programs attended
- List of programs attended recently (names & phone numbers of contacts)
- If your child receives early intervention and special education services, the most recent IFSP or IEP

Questions to ask your child's program

Young children are encouraged by your interest in their activities. They also benefit when you take time to ask questions or visit their program. If your child qualifies for McKinney-Vento services, ask your child's program about special supports that may be available, such as:

- 🍌 Who at your program can help our family with services? How can I contact them?
- 🍌 Do you provide free meals?
- 🍌 Can my child receive free school supplies, or help with things like field trips?
- 🍌 Who can help if my child has a disability or developmental delay?
- 🍌 How quickly can these services be set up?
- 🍌 Is transportation to the program available?



Not all moves can be planned, but if possible

- 🍌 Try to plan your move during a natural break in the school year such as summer break;
- 🍌 Inform your child's program of your plans to move, or if you have moved; and
- 🍌 Discuss keeping your child in the same program even if you move out of the program zone.

If you need to change programs, remember to

- 🍌 Ask for a copy of your child's records. If you can't get a copy, ask the program for a letter that summarizes your child's program.
Be sure to get information on:
 - 🍌 What level of the program your child is in;
 - 🍌 Any important medical information, including shot records; and
 - 🍌 Whether your child has been referred to or enrolled in any special programs.
- 🍌 Enroll your child in the new program as soon as possible.
- 🍌 Contact the local McKinney-Vento liaison if you need help locating a new program or enrolling your child.
 - 🍌 Call Project HOPE-Virginia toll free at **(877) 455-3412** if you need help locating the local liaison.



If your family lives in any of the following conditions

- 🍏 Emergency or transitional shelter
- 🍏 Motel, hotel, or campground due to lack of an adequate alternative
- 🍏 Car, park, public place, bus or train station, or abandoned building
- 🍏 Staying with relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason

Your young and school-aged children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

If your child is eligible, what rights and protections can be offered?

Your young child may be eligible for assistance under the McKinney-Vento Act. Programs supported with state and federal funds* can assist you and your child by:

- 🍏 Prioritizing your child for services;
- 🍏 Helping you and your child reduce the number of early childhood program changes you make;
- 🍏 Assisting with transportation, if possible. If you move and remaining in the same program is in your child's best interest, your program may be able to assist with transportation; and
- 🍏 Assisting with referrals. Your program may assist with referrals and connect your family with other community agencies or individuals who can help with supports such as housing, health care, and nutrition programs.

If you have school-aged children (K-12), the McKinney-Vento Act gives children and youth in homeless situations 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 attending the school of origin is in their best interest. The school of origin is the school children attended when they were permanently housed or the school where the children were last enrolled;
- 🍏 Receive transportation to and from the school of origin;
- 🍏 Enroll in school immediately, even if they are missing records and documents normally required for enrollment, such as birth certificates, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records;
- 🍏 Attend classes and participate fully in all school activities; and
- 🍏 Access the same programs and services that are available to all other students, including transportation and supplemental educational services.

***See the summary of Virginia's Early Intervention and Public Preschool Programs included in this folder.**



Prepared in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Head Start Collaboration Office



Find Your Local
McKinney-Vento Liaison

What is Project HOPE-Virginia?

Project HOPE-Virginia is Virginia's Program for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The William & Mary School of Education administers the program for the Virginia Department of Education. Funding is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95). The purpose of Project HOPE-VA is to ensure the enrollment, attendance, and school success of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Project HOPE-Virginia

Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
Virginia Department of Education
Coordinated by the William & Mary School of Education

Office (757) 221-4002 | Toll Free (877) 455-3412
homlss@wm.edu | www.projecthopevirginia.org