

# Even if you have

Uncertain housing

A temporary address

No permanent physical address

## you can enroll your child in school.

# What Families Need to Know



### Educational Rights For Children and Youth Lacking Fixed, Regular, and Adequate Housing

- You do not need a permanent address to enroll your child in school.
- Your child cannot be denied school enrollment when school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- Your child may be able to remain in the same school (school of origin) even if you move.
- You have the right to request transportation to the school of origin.
- If you and the school disagree about school enrollment, you may have the right to appeal.
- Your child automatically qualifies to participate in free school meals.
- Your child has the right to participate in federal, state, or local programs for which they are eligible.

Youth not accompanied by a parent or guardian and lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing have these same rights.

### At School, Ask About:

- School supplies
- Before and after school programs
- Tutoring and enrichment programs
- Summer school programs
- Preschool programs
- Contact information for community resources

Also, let the school know if your child needs special education, English language, or gifted programs.

**Schools give children and youth experiencing homelessness hope and a chance for a better future.**



**If you have questions, contact the school division's McKinney-Vento liaison or Project HOPE-Virginia.**

### Tips For Families Who Move Often

- Keep a copy of birth certificates and school records accessible.
- Safeguard all health and immunization records.
- Have a reliable person keep a second copy of the child's birth certificate, school records, and health information.
- Enroll children in school as soon as possible.

### What You Can Do Before Moving

- Tell your child's teacher and principal that your child is moving and give them the new address.
- Let your McKinney-Vento liaison know if you want your child to stay in the school of origin.
- Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including immunizations.

## Agency Information List

The following contacts may be useful resources to families and children experiencing homelessness.

### Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

Child Protective Services (CPS) - Virginia Department of Social Services  
Virginia: (804) 786-8536 | Out-of-State: (800) 552-7096

### Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline

[www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org) | (800) 422-4433

### Free Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit

[www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) | (800) 829-1040

### National Human Trafficking Resource Center

[www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org) | (888) 373-7888

### SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

[www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi) | (800) 552-3431

### Virginia Housing

[www.virginiahousing.com](http://www.virginiahousing.com) | [www.vhda.com](http://www.vhda.com) | (877) 843-2123

### Virginia School Immunization Requirements

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements) | (800) 568-1929

### VA Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

[www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org) | (800)-838-8238 | (804) 793-9999

### Cover Virginia - Medicaid & FAMIS

[www.coverva.org](http://www.coverva.org) | (833) 522-5582

### National Center for Homeless Education

[www.nche.ed.gov](http://www.nche.ed.gov) | (800) 308-2145

### National Runaway Safeline

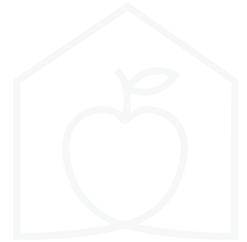
[www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org) | (800) 786-2929

### Social Security Administration Hotline

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) | (800) 772-1213

### Virginia Legal Aid

[www.vlas.org](http://www.vlas.org) | (866) 534-5243



The federal McKinney-Vento Act guarantees school enrollment for anyone who, **due to a lack of permanent housing**, lives in **inadequate** or **temporary** settings, such as:

- 🏠 Emergency shelters or transitional housing
- 🏠 Motels, hotels, or campgrounds due to lack of an adequate alternative
- 🏠 Cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings
- 🏠 Doubled-up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship

## Find Your Local McKinney-Vento Liaison



Local contact:



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

**E-mail** [homlss@wm.edu](mailto:homlss@wm.edu)

**Website** [www.projecthopevirginia.org](http://www.projecthopevirginia.org)

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