

Who is considered homeless?

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless children and youth as:

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes--

- children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

www.ed.gov

Who can help when someone is homeless?

Frederick Community Action Agency
301-600-1506

The Religious Coalition
for Emergency Human Needs:
301-631-2670

Frederick County Department
of Social Services:
301-600-4555

Frederick County Public Schools:
301-644-5290

The Maryland State Department
of Education:
410-767-0945

Frederick County Hotline
211

Each school has a designated homeless coordinator who is available to assist with school enrollment, obtaining school records, providing items needed to fully participate in school (such as school supplies), and referral to community resources.

Frederick County Public Schools, Maryland publishes this brochure through a grant received from the Maryland State Department of Education and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001.

FCPS

Frederick County Public Schools
Reach. Challenge. Prepare.

Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



Where do homeless children go to school?

Parents/guardians or unaccompanied homeless youth have the right to decide, along with the school, whether to:

- Stay at the same school attended before the family became homeless or the last school attended (called the "school of origin") or
- Transfer to the school closest to the family's new location

What is in the child's best interest?

Considerations include, but are not limited to:

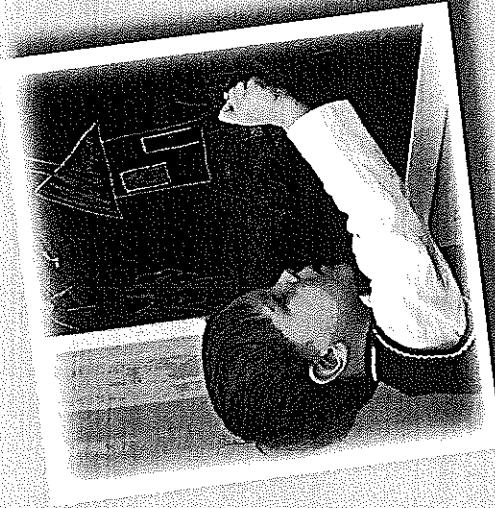
- The student's age
- The length of the commute to and from school and its impact on the student's education
- Personal safety issues
- The need for special instruction
- The anticipated length of stay in a temporary residence or area
- The time remaining in the school year



What documents are needed to enroll a homeless child in school?

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- School Records

If these documents are not available, the school will immediately enroll the student and assist with obtaining records.



Does a homeless child have the same rights as other students?

Yes, including access to:

- Before/After-School Programs
- Career & Technology Education
- Gifted & Talented Programs
- Preschool Programs
- School Breakfast & Lunch
- Special Education
- Transportation

Can a homeless student ride the school bus?

Yes. FCPS will transport to the school that's in the student's best interest.

Dispute resolution

If a dispute arises over a homeless student's rights, the child/youth must be immediately enrolled at the school of origin or zoned school, pending resolution of the dispute. Enrollment is defined as "attending classes and participating fully in school activities." Any dispute must be filed with the appropriate school principal in writing.

The principal shall issue a written decision within 5 school days. This decision may be appealed to the superintendent or designee, and if necessary to the Board of Education of Frederick County and the state.

