

Homeless Education Who is homeless?

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, most recently re-authorized December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

The term includes -

- Children and youth who are:
 - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (often called doubled-up)
 - are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is public or private 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 they are living in circumstances described above.

Educational Rights

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have 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 this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled,
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin,
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records,
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for transfer of records,
- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services,
- Have access to free school meals/lunch programs,
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited.
- Have homeless status treated as an educational record under FERPA



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- A homeless child or youth ages 3-21;
- A child who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:
- A child or youth who is sharing the housing of others (includes doubled-up families) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; or is abandoned in a hospital;
- A child or youth who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans beings;
- A child or youth who is living in a car, park, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or
- A migratory child/youth who qualifies as homeless because of the living circumstances described above
 - Includes youth who have runaway or youth being forced to leave home.

Resources

Local Homeless Liaison: Every Iowa public school district is required to have a liaison for homeless students. Contact the local school district administration office.

State Coordinator for Homeless Education
Carolyn Cobb, Iowa Department of Education
carolyn.cobb@iowa.gov 515-402-2736
[Iowa Department of Education](http://iowa.gov)

[National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](http://www.nche.org)
Toll-free Helpline: 800-308-2145

[National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAECHY\)](http://www.naechy.org)