

Resource: Public School Assistance for homeless children

If you have children in school and have become homeless:

1. Click on the button that says "School Contacts" and look up the Homeless Liaison for your child's school.
2. Call that person and arrange an appointment with them, according to the McKinney-Vento act- the liaison will make sure your child succeeds in school.
3. The liaison:
 - a. assists with enrollment and dispute-resolution procedures;
 - b. informs the parent/guardian, unaccompanied youth, district staff, and community agencies of the educational rights of homeless children and youth;
 - c. arranges transportation
 - d. obtains necessary school supplies;
 - e. ensures students receive free school meals;
 - f. ensures comparable educational services;
 - g. works in partnership with community agencies; and has special responsibilities to assist unaccompanied children and youth.

This will be different for each school district – so again the first thing to do is contact the school district social worker or homeless liaison, they can assist and walk a family through much of this.

For Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Students:

1. If you are new to Madison a family should start with online enrollment. MMSD website has information under the parent tab on the first page of the website. If you are currently attending a MMSD school please contact your school social worker.
2. If you do not have a computer accessible to you then you could go to the closest school and inquire in the office. This may not be the school you attend as there are specific enrollment guidelines the district follows about where you can attend school. The office can connect you with the school social worker for assistance.
3. Transportation is set once a conversation is had with the school social worker in MMSD. Transportation is provided as comparable transportation to housed students. It is not a grantee that a ride will be offered. The conversation will take into account distance, mode, age of the child, gas cards, bus tickets; MMSD uses many different ways of transportation.
4. Transportation can be offered between school district to continue education stability. Contact your school social worker or homeless liaison for support in setting this up. Transportation has to be feasible and consistent.
5. Transportation can be available until the end of the school year to the school of origin/current attendance, once permanent housing is secured to build educational stability for the entire year.
6. Register for free school lunch/breakfast is automatic when a family is verified as homeless. Free meals will be provided until the end of the school year no matter if the financial situation changes in a family. Once homeless then meals are free until the end of the year.
7. Please ask about fee waivers for books, field trips and activities. Fee waivers should be automatic also but it is always good to ask in case it is missed. The fee situation could change once housing is found and financial stability is secured, but usually it lasts until the end of the school year.

8. School supplies and needed items to participate in school are available from the school also, this is something to ask the School Social Worker about also.

Unaccompanied Youth:

Please contact your school social worker! In MMSD there are rights you have that they can support you with. They need to know you need help in order to make sure these rights are shared and in place.

Out of District:

1. Go to your child's school office, talk to your child's teacher, or call the school and ask to speak to the school social worker or district homeless liaison. Let them know that your family is currently homeless (or will be).
2. Go to the "School Contacts" button (your HEN –Homeless Education Network Sheet) to see who is the homeless liaison contact in your school district.

Your Child's Rights:

Districts are responsible for removing educational barriers limiting a homeless student's full participation in school. Barriers may include lack of transportation; inability to pay for books, school supplies, eye glasses, program apparel, and the like; or policies (such as residential requirements) which may exclude them from enrollment. Students experiencing homelessness have the right to receive transportation to their "school of origin" - the school the child or youth was attending when permanently housed or last enrolled.