



McKinney-Vento Homeless & Transition Education Program

Student Rights

August 2012

Dear Parent or Guardian!

Alachua County Public Schools (ACPS) is pleased to provide educational support to all students experiencing homelessness or transitions in their home life. As outlined under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, the purpose of the Children at Promise Homeless & Transitions Education Program of Alachua County is to ensure that students have equal access to a free and appropriate education, despite their current home situation. This commitment to the educational rights of those experiencing homelessness is listed below and applies to all programs, services and activities made available by the ACPS.

A. Who is considered eligible for McKinney-Vento Services?

A student is considered homeless if he or she is presently living:

- In a shelter
- In a hotel, motel, camping ground, or similar situation due to a lack of alternative adequate housing
- In a relative or friends home due to economic hardship and lack of alternative adequate housing
- In a car, train or bus station, park, or other public space not deemed for living
- In an abandoned building or other location not deemed for living
- In temporary housing while awaiting foster care placement

(Note: This also applies to migrant students, pre-kindergarten and unaccompanied youth).

B. What are the rights of those students who are eligible for McKinney-Vento Services?

- Remain in the current school and in the homeless education program for that academic school year. Once permanent housing is secured, students will be required to attend their attendance area school, or apply for a zoning exception if they desire to remain at the school last attended.
- Priority in pre-school programs within ACPS. This applies to children ages 3 & 4 yrs old!
- Participate in tutorial/supplemental educational services, school activities and other school programs. This includes free nutrition (breakfast & Lunch) services at school.
- Obtain school supplies, uniform shirts, referrals to local and state agencies for assistance.
- Transportation services. A homeless student attending his or her school of origin has a right to transportation services to and from school. Transportation services are coordinated by the Homeless Education Coordinator, and can take up to 5 business days.
- Educational Supplies for school success which include hygiene products, back packs, school supplies, uniform shirts, etc.,
- On-going Communication between the parent and school. Parents it is imperative that you foster a close relationship with your child's school and maintain accurate contact information in case of an emergency. Should your residence change please notify us and your child's school immediately!

"Bridging the gap between home and school!"

The Homeless Education Team
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