

ENROLLING HOMELESS CHILDREN

INFORMATION FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND ENROLLING STAFF

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act and Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act homeless children have the following rights:

1. ***Immediate Enrollment*** -- The right to be enrolled immediately in school, without medical or academic records, regardless of district policy.

2. ***Choice of Schools*** -- The homeless child has three choices:
 - School of Origin - The school the child last attended
 - School of Origin - The school the child attended when he/she became homeless
 - The school closest to the shelter or other temporary housing

3. ***Transportation*** -- Homeless children are entitled to the same rights to transportation as other children in their district. Parents or guardians should make a good faith effort to provide or arrange for transportation. Otherwise, school districts are responsible for transportation costs.

4. ***Services*** - Homeless children are entitled to the same services, such as tutoring, that are available to other children in their districts.

5. ***Dispute Resolution*** -- If problems arise between the school and parents or between districts, the parent shall be referred to an ombudsperson in each Regional Office of Education. In the meantime, the child must remain in school and receive transportation.

Opening Doors – Statewide Access to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

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