

## Community Resources

- ▶ **Impact 211**  
Emergency food pantry referrals, access to shelters and other community resources dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211
- ▶ **Sojourner Family Peace Center**  
for assistance with domestic violence-related concerns (414) 933-2722
- ▶ **Community Advocates**  
(414) 449-4777
- ▶ **Pathfinders Youth Shelter**  
(414) 271-1560
- ▶ **Walker's Point Youth Shelter**  
(414) 647-8200
- ▶ **Pathfinders Drop-In Center for Youth**  
(414) 964-2565
- ▶ **La Causa Crisis Nursery**  
(414) 647-5990



# HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM



Allowing children to stay in their own school can provide stability, support, and comfort when a family is homeless. MPS has options to keep children in their own schools.

**Call us to learn about the many supports available to help students succeed.**



**Homeless Education Program**  
Department of Specialized Services  
5225 W. Vliet St., Room 138  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(414) 475-8911  
FAX (414) 777-7803  
mpsmke.com

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Are you moving  
from place to  
place?

Have you  
lost housing?

You may be eligible  
for services through  
the MPS HEP!



# HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM



# Frequently Asked Questions



The **Homeless Education Program** is here to help youth experiencing homelessness succeed in school.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was created to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have the same opportunity to be successful in school as their housed peers.

## If you are living...

- ▶ With relatives, friends, or others because you lost housing or because of some other crisis or hardship
- ▶ In a shelter or transitional housing
- ▶ In a motel or hotel because you have no other options
- ▶ Anywhere but your home with your legal parent/guardian, including youth who have left home, “run away”, been kicked out or asked to leave

...We may be able to help!

## Students who qualify have the right to...

- ▶ Stay in the same school and get free transportation to that school even if it is across district lines.
- ▶ Immediately enroll in school without records (school records, medical records, vaccination records, proof of residency, birth certificates).
- ▶ Get special education services immediately if the student has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- ▶ Participate fully in school activities without barriers, including before- or after-school activities sponsored by your school.
- ▶ Get support services and help with things like school supplies, a school uniform and school fees from your child's school.
- ▶ Automatic eligibility for free school meals.
- ▶ Get help enrolling in pre-k, Head Start, other preschool programs.
- ▶ Get help preparing for and applying to college.

## ▶ Who can help me at my child's school?

Each school has a Primary and Secondary Homeless Contact. The Primary Contact at your school is the School Social Worker and s/he can assist with enrolling your child in the HEP and making sure your child receives the McKinney-Vento services that s/he needs.

## ▶ We are temporarily living too far from the school to receive transportation. How can I get transportation for my children?

The best way to go about getting HEP transportation arranged is to contact the School Social Worker at your child's school and explain the situation as soon as possible.

## ▶ A student moves into permanent housing after experiencing homelessness, but the new address is outside the school's bussing region, can they continue to receive transportation?

Yes! A student can receive out-of-region transportation back to the school they were attending (school of origin) for the duration of homelessness or until the end of the school year in which they find permanent housing.

## ▶ Can a student who is homeless enroll themselves in school?

Yes! A student that meets the definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth can enroll on their own and participate fully in school activities without barriers, even when the parent/legal guardian is not present. Contact the MPS HEP or come see us at the address listed on the back and we can assist you.

## ▶ Can a school require a parent or student in temporary housing to show proof of address to register for school or to get transportation back to their school of origin?

No, if a student is identified as homeless they must be enrolled immediately even if they don't have the documentation normally required (proof of residence, immunization records, a birth certificate, guardianship records, etc.) For those students who are already enrolled in school and eligible to receive transportation back to their school of origin, that transportation should be requested without requiring proof of address, until the family obtains stable housing.

## ▶ My children were enrolled in the HEP last year and we're still homeless. How do I make sure my child is able to get to school on the first day?

Even if you're still at the same address, you need to be re-enrolled in the HEP each school year. Please call the School Social Worker (SSW) at your child's school and let them know you are still in a temporary living situation and will need transportation set up again this year. SSWs start at least 2 weeks before school starts, so that should be enough time to get transportation arranged for the first day, but call as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary absences.

