

## OTHER HELPFUL CONTACTS...

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

For help with a special education matter, contact the VESID Regional Office or a PTI Center in your area.

#### **Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) Regional Offices**

Central Regional Office (315) 428-3287

Eastern Regional Office (518) 486-6366

Hudson Valley Regional Offices

Yorktown Heights Location (914) 245-0010

Albany Location (518) 473-1185

Long Island Regional Office (631) 884-8530

New York City Regional Office (718) 722-4544

Western Regional Office (585) 344-2002

#### **Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI)**

The Advocacy Center (ROCHESTER)

(585) 546-1700; (800) 650-4967

Advocates for Children of New York (NEW YORK CITY)

(212) 947-9779

Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (NEW YORK CITY)

(212) 677-4650

Sinergia/Metropolitan Parent Center (NEW YORK CITY)

(212) 643-2840

### EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Early Childhood Direction Centers provide information about services for children, ages birth through five, who have disabilities. To contact the Center in your area, call (518) 486-7462

### RUNAWAY OR HOMELESS YOUTH

For information, referrals, and crisis intervention, contact the National Runaway Switchboard at (800) RUNAWAY (786-2929)

### HOUSING

For information about eviction prevention and public housing, contact (518) 473-2588

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

(800) 942-6906 (ENGLISH)

(800) 942-6908 (SPANISH)

(800) 621-HOPE (4673) (NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS)

Students who transfer schools often do worse in school than those who don't transfer. The McKinney-Vento Act can help solve this problem by allowing students to stay in the same school and get free transportation.

## FOR HELP WITH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OR TRANSPORTATION CONTACT...

### DISTRICT HOMELESS LIAISON

If you don't know who this is, contact NYS-TEACHS.

### THE NEW YORK STATE TECHNICAL AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS (NYS-TEACHS)

TOLL-FREE: (800) 388-2014

EMAIL: [info@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:info@advocatesforchildren.org)

WEB: [www.nysteachs.org](http://www.nysteachs.org)

### NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

State Program Associate

Melanie Faby (518) 473-0295

EMAIL: [mfaby@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:mfaby@mail.nysed.gov)

WEB: [www.emsc.nysed.gov/nclb/programs/homeless/](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/nclb/programs/homeless/)

State Coordinator

Roberto Reyes (518) 473-0295

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# IS YOUR HOUSING UNCERTAIN?

# DO YOU LIVE AT A TEMPORARY ADDRESS?

You can still enroll in school and may get free transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act.



## THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT COVERS CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO DON'T HAVE A FIXED, ADEQUATE AND REGULAR NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE, SUCH AS THOSE LIVING:

- in an emergency or transitional shelter;
- with friends or relatives due to loss of housing or economic hardship (also known as doubled up);
- in a motel, hotel or campground;
- in a car, bus or train station or other public place;
- in an abandoned building or some other inadequate accommodations; or
- in temporary situations while awaiting foster care placement.

### THEY CAN CHOOSE FROM:

- the school they went to when permanently housed (known as the **school of origin**);
- the last school they went to (also known as the **school of origin**); or
- the school located in the attendance area where they are temporarily living (known as the **local school**).

### STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- **immediately enroll** in school and attend classes;
- **get free transportation to the school of origin** even if it is in another district;
- **get free transportation to the local school** if transportation is provided to other students;
- **get special education services immediately** if the student has a current IEP (even if the IEP itself is not available or if it is from another district);
- **participate in any school activity** that is available to other students and get transportation to and from all before- or after-school activities if it is provided to other students; and
- **get free school meals** without filling out an application.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHO CAN HELP STUDENTS LIVING IN TEMPORARY HOUSING?

Every school district must appoint a homeless liaison to help children and youth in temporary housing participate in school. Contact information for the liaison and other useful organizations can be found in this brochure.

### CAN A SCHOOL REQUIRE A STUDENT IN TEMPORARY HOUSING TO SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCE TO REGISTER FOR SCHOOL?

No, if a student says that she is homeless, she must be enrolled immediately even if she doesn't have the papers normally needed, such as proof of residence, immunization records, a birth certificate, guardianship records, or school records.

### CAN A STUDENT WHO IS LIVING IN TEMPORARY HOUSING STAY IN THE SAME SCHOOL IF HE MOVES OUT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT?

Yes, the student has the right to attend the school he attended when he was permanently housed as long as he does not have to travel more than 50 miles each way.

### CAN A STUDENT ENROLL HERSELF IN SCHOOL?

Sometimes. Youth living in temporary housing and not with their parents or legal guardians (known as unaccompanied youth) can enroll themselves in school. In such situations, school staff should contact the homeless liaison for help.

### WHAT IF A SCHOOL DOESN'T ENROLL A STUDENT OR PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION BECAUSE THE DISTRICT DOUBTS HE IS HOMELESS?

Parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth living in temporary housing have the right to appeal a school's decision. The school must immediately enroll the student, give him a written explanation of its decision, and refer him to the district's homeless liaison for help with the appeal process. The student has the right to go to school and get transportation to school until a final decision is made.

### IF A STUDENT MOVES INTO PERMANENT HOUSING, CAN SHE STAY IN THE SAME SCHOOL?

Yes. Students who move into permanent housing can stay in the same school until the end of the school year. Some students can stay one more year if it is the student's last year in that school (for example, students going into the 8th or 12th grades).

### DID YOU KNOW...?

If you share housing with relatives, friends or others because you lost your housing or have nowhere else to go, you may be covered under the McKinney-Vento Act. Students covered under the Act have the right to stay in the same school and get transportation to school, or immediately enroll in the local school. Speak to the liaison in your school district for more information.