



# HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, requires all school districts to provide homeless children and youth, including unaccompanied youth, a free and appropriate education.

The DCPS Homeless Children and Youth Program (HCYP) works with homeless students, families, schools, shelters and community organizations to ensure their educational rights are protected.

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

### THE RIGHT TO IMMEDIATELY ENROLL

Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to rapid enrollment into school even if they are missing school or health records, birth certificates and proof of residency. Please contact the HCYP if there are questions or concerns about residency.

### THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN THE SCHOOL OF ORIGIN.

The school of origin is defined as “the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a preschool.”. The student has the right to attend the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed.

### THE RIGHT TO IMMEDIATELY ENROLL IN THE LOCAL (IN-BOUNDARY) SCHOOL

A parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth can request to enroll in the local school determined by the current temporary residence. The right to immediate enrollment is NOT extended to application schools. You can find the in-boundary school by typing your current temporary address into the DCPS Enrollment Boundary Information System (EBIS): <http://dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/schools/>

### THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE A BEST INTEREST PLACEMENT.

Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student’s best interest. Best interest placements are determined by the impact of mobility on achievement, attendance concerns, safety of the child or youth, the impact of the commute on education, special education needs and seat capacity, and the school placement of siblings. Best interest placements are made by the HCYP Manager and the appropriate Instructional Superintendent.

### CONFIDENTIALITY REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF HOMELESS STATUS.

Only the registrar, school-based homeless liaison, principal and/or the individual that the family in transition disclosed to, should be made aware of the family’s homeless status.

### PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION & UNIFORM ASSISTANCE

School-based Homeless Liaisons will request transportation (via SmarTrip card) and uniform assistance through the Homeless Children and Youth Program.

