

Homeless Children and Youth

Allendale Public Schools adhere to the rules and regulations of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Subtitle B – Education of Homeless Children and Youth reauthorized in January 2002) ensuring educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. At Allendale Public Schools, students who are homeless have access to the same programs as students who are housed. Homeless children will have access to educational services for which they qualify, including special education, gifted education, the free and reduced-price lunch program, before and after-school activities, and Title I services. Allendale Public Schools will also designate an appropriate staff person as a liaison* for students in homeless situations. The liaison must ensure that homeless children and youth have full and equal opportunity to succeed in the school and that they receive educational services for which they are eligible.

Allendale Public Schools will:

- immediately enroll homeless children and youth regardless of whether school or immunization records and proof of residency are available at the time of enrollment,
- provide 'school of choice' so students can stay in their school of origin, if feasible,
- post the educational rights of homeless children and youth in each school building, and
- provide transportation for the homeless student to ensure access to school.

The term "homeless children and youth" –

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

(B) Includes –

(i) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals, or are awaiting foster care placement;

(ii) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...

(iii) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

**The liaison for students in homeless situations for Allendale Public Schools is Chuck Bailey (616) 892-5575.*