

## **TITLE X MCKINNEY VENTO RIGHTS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS**



***The school district shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have equal access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and youth not living with a parent or guardian, applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.***

A student is considered “**homeless**” if he or she is presently living:

- in a shelter \* sharing housing with relatives or others due to lack of housing
- in a motel/hotel, camping ground, or similar situation due to lack of alternative, adequate housing
- at a train or bus station, park, or in a car \* in an abandoned building
- temporarily housed while awaiting DCFS foster care placement

### **All Homeless Students Have Rights To:**

- **Immediate school enrollment.** *A school must immediately enroll students even if they lack health, immunization or school records, proof of guardianship, or proof of residency.*
- **Enroll in:**
  - \*the school he/she attended when permanently housed (school of origin)
  - \*the school in which he/she was last enrolled (school of origin)
  - \*any school that non-homeless students living in the same attendance area in which the homeless child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
- **Remain** enrolled in his/her selected school for as long as he/she remains homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year.
- **Priority** in certain preschool programs.
- **Participate** in a tutorial-instructional support program, school-related activities, and/or receive other support services.
- **Obtain** information regarding how to get fee waivers, free uniforms, and low-cost or free medical referrals.
- **Transportation services:** A homeless student attending his/her school of origin has a right to transportation to go to and from the school of origin as long as (s)he is homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed they receive one additional month.

**Dispute Resolution:** If a parent disagrees with school officials about enrollment, transportation or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, they may file a complaint with the school district. The Homeless Liaison can assist during this process. The dispute resolution form is available on our website <http://eop.dpsk12.org> (under shelter and parent information). The school district must respond and attempt to resolve it quickly. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school and provided transportation ( if qualify) until the matter in resolved.

If you have questions about enrollment in school, or want more information about the rights of homeless students in Denver Public Schools, call your area Homeless Education Liaison.

North Area: Jackie Bell 720.423.8228, [Jackie\\_Bell@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jackie_Bell@dpsk12.org)

South Area, Alt./Charter Schools: Anna Stout 720.423.8230, [Anna\\_Stout@dpsk12.org](mailto:Anna_Stout@dpsk12.org)