

## WHO HELPS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

Every school district must have a person in charge of making sure all students experiencing homelessness can enroll and succeed in school.

CIT Advocates and Liaisons will help with school enrollment, documents, withdrawal, transportation, and access to district nutrition, health, and counseling services.

## NEED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY?

Contact our Family Resource Centers:

Central and South Reno  
Phone: 775-321-3185

Sparks  
Phone: 775-353-5733

Sun Valley  
Phone: 775-327-1511



## PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR CHILDREN BE SUCCESSFUL AT SCHOOL BY:

- Having your child's immunization records up-to-date and available when enrolling your child.
- Providing a certified copy of your child's birth certificate to your child's school.
- Meeting with your child's Children in Transition (CIT) advocate, teachers, and counselor.
- Giving your child's school an emergency phone number so you can be reached while your child is in school.
- Feeding your child a nutritious breakfast or letting the school know your child has not had breakfast.
- Talking to your child's CIT advocate, counselor, teacher(s), and nurse about any problems.

### EDUCATION IS A RIGHT

Your child's school is your partner, valuing your thoughts and ideas. Parent involvement is the most important factor in your child's success. You are your child's first and most important teacher.



If you need further information or assistance, call the National Center for Homeless Education, toll-free, at :  
**1-800-308-2145**



**Washoe County School District**

Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation™

## CHILDREN IN TRANSITION

### SUPPORTING CHILDREN & YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



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## MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

Annually, over one million children and youth experience homelessness. Schools can give these students stability, security, and a safe place to grow.

In the 1980s, Congress passed a law, now called the McKinney-Vento Act, that gives children and youth in homeless situations certain education rights. This pamphlet uses non-legal terms to outline an understanding of these basic rights.

Under the Act, students are in a homeless situation if they are:

- Living with a friend or relative because they lost their home and cannot afford a home.
- Living in a motel or hotel, for example, due to an eviction.
- Living in an emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelter.
- Living in a car, park, or abandoned building.
- Living in a camper, RV, fifth wheel, or tent.
- Runaway or abandoned youth.
- Living on the street.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education provided to other students, including preschool education.

Continue in the school they attended before they experienced homelessness, or go to the zoned school where they are now living. The school's Children in Transition Advocate will help with and offer the right to appeal a decision regarding choice of school.

Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency which might delay or prevent school enrollment.

Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or other documents required for enrollment.

Receive transportation to the school they attended before they experienced homelessness or the school they last attended.

Attend a school and participate in school activities and programs with their peers.

Attend special classes and receive services, if needed, *as provided to all other students.*

## IF A CHILD QUALIFIES AS CIT, THEY CAN:

- Contact the Children in Transition Advocate at your school or the school district's Children in Transition Liaisons, for help in arranging to continue in your former school or enrolling in the zone school.
- Tell your new teachers anything that you think they need to know to help you adjust in the new school.
- Ask any of the following people for assistance with backpacks, school supplies, personal care items or health and dental services, if needed:
  - ⇒ The school's CIT Advocate
  - ⇒ The Liaisons for homeless education, or
  - ⇒ A social agency provider

