

## LAWS COVERING SERVICES TO STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

In 1887, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act became law. This is the first comprehensive federal law dealing with the problems of homelessness in America. In 2001, that Act was included in No Child Left Behind and is now titled “The McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.”

In 1988, the Pennsylvania Department of Education established the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

The key mandate of these laws is to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to free and appropriate public education on an equal basis with other children.

### WHO QUALIFIES?

“children and youth experiencing homelessness” means children who have no fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. They may be found in the following situation:

- Public or private shelters.
- Public or private places not designated for/or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations such as vehicles, parks, motels, campgrounds, etc.
- Living with a parent in a domestic violence shelter.
- Individuals and/or families living with relatives or friends due to a lack of housing.
- Living in transitional housing programs.
- Children of migrant families who lack adequate housing.
- Children abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care.
- Unaccompanied youth (under age 18) and children are who have been abandoned or forced out of the home by parents or other caretakers. They may be in temporary shelters awaiting assistance from social service agencies, or may live along on the street or move from place to place among family members, friends, or acquaintances. This also includes such youth from 18-21 of age who may still be eligible for educational services in regular or special education.

### THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

#### • **School Choice**

If a student becomes homeless during the academic year or between academic years, they may continue in the their “school of origin” for the rest of that year if this is in the best interest of the student.

- **Eligibility for Free and Reduced Lunches**
- **Eligibility for Title I support services**
- **Transportation services arranged by Penn Hills School District.**
- Home/School Visitor ( School Social worker )to support and provide resources for the family.

## WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP?

If you feel you and your family is experience homelessness, please contact homeless liaison, principal, guidance counselor in order to receive appropriate services.

Kyoko T. Henson, Penn Hills School District Homeless Liaison - 412-793 7000 x 1218

Nicole Anderson - Allegheny Intermediate Unit - 412-394-5700

The PA Dept. of Education Homeless Children and Youth Program - 717-783-6466