

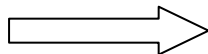
## Homeless Categories

(Listed on “Power School” student registration form)

1. Doubled up with another family because of loss of housing or economic hardship.
2. Live in a hotel or motel.
3. Live in a shelter (emergency, domestic or transitional.) SwitchPoint, Care and Share, Dove Center, etc.
4. Live in a car, park, campground or public place.
5. Live in a place without adequate facilities (running water, heat, electricity).
6. Student seeks enrollment without an accompanying parent (not youth in foster care).



Signs of Homelessness



## Signs of Homelessness

### *Signs that indicate a homeless family:*

- ◆Parent exhibits anger or embarrassment when asked about current address.
- ◆Parent may hide lack of permanent address with comments such as, “It’s a new address”, “I can’t remember it”, or “I will bring it tomorrow.”
- ◆Parent appears confused when asked what school child has last attended.
- ◆Parent has no medical or school records in hand.
- ◆Parent may create reasons for poor appearance and/or hygiene (“we’ve been unpacking, traveling, etc.”)

### *Signs that indicate a child is homeless:*

- ◆Chronic hunger and tiredness
- ◆Erratic attendance and tardiness
- ◆Grooming and personal hygiene/clothing that draws attention
- ◆Consistent lack of preparation: coming without books, supplies, homework completed or papers signed
- ◆Extremes in behavior: withdrawal, extreme shyness, nervousness, aggression, anger
- ◆Resistance to parting with personal possessions (e.g. putting coat in locker)

# Helping the Homeless Student

Washington County School District  
Can Make a Difference



**“State educational agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, as other children and youth.”**

(McKinney-Vento Homeless Act)

**For more information contact:  
Mike Carr  
Homeless Liaison/Student  
Support Services Coordinator  
435-986-5167**

**“Homelessness is a devastating experience for families. It disrupts virtually every aspect of family life, damaging the physical and emotional health of family members, interfering with children’s education and development, and frequently resulting in the separation of family members.” (National Coalition for the Homeless)**

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## **Enrolling Homeless Children**

1. Immediate Enrollment – The right to be enrolled immediately even if child/youth is unable to produce records normally required including immunizations.
2. Choice of schools – The homeless child/youth has three choices:
  - a. School of origin: The school child attended when permanently housed.
  - b. School last attended.
  - c. The school closest to the shelter or other temporary housing.
3. Transportation – School district is responsible for transportation costs to and from school of choice.
4. Dispute Resolution – If problems arise between the school and parents/guardians, they shall be referred to the district homeless liaison who will carry out the dispute resolution process. If the dispute cannot be settled, the State Office of Education Homeless Coordinator will carry out the dispute process. In the meantime the child must remain in school and receive services and transportation.

5. Services – Homeless children are entitled to the same services, such as tutoring, school programs, etc. that are available to other children in the district.

## **What Can You Do To Help Homeless Students?**

### *Help Child and Family Feel Welcome*

#### **PRINCIPAL:**

- ◆ Educate and support school staff in assisting homeless.
- ◆ Ensure counselor and secretaries are aware of homeless students and report to homeless liaison.

#### **SECRETARY:**

- ◆ Review records, and enroll homeless students. **DO NOT** exclude student for lack of records, contact homeless liaison if assistance is needed.
- ◆ Have the parents fill out the student info questionnaire for McKinney-Vento eligibility.
- ◆ List student on “Power School” homeless section as per appropriate category.

#### **TEACHER:**

- ◆ Welcome them unconditionally.

- ◆ Select a student to be their “buddy” on the first day.
- ◆ Be aware of common obstacles to completing homework and sensitive when requesting money or supplies from home. Refer to counselor for special needs.



- ◆ Regularly assess class for new homeless students and report to counselor and secretary of changes.

#### **COUNSELOR:**

- ◆ Help ensure staff is aware of needs of homeless, reporting procedures, and encourage them to report to you concerning homeless students as soon as possible.
- ◆ Refer for services ie: students needing food, clothing, shelter or basic medical attention.
- ◆ Report homeless students to the Homeless Liaison as soon as possible.