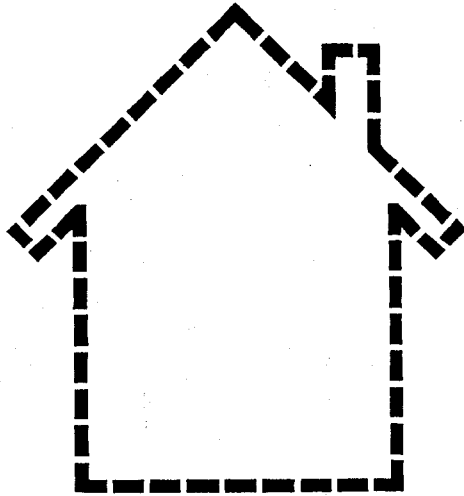


# Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth



## Sevier County Schools

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## Who are Homeless Children and Youth?


According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a child or youth is considered to be homeless if he/she lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.


The U.S. Department of Education has said the following categories of children and youth should be considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:


-  Children and youth in transitional shelters.
-  Children and youth living in camping grounds (or motels) because they lack adequate living accommodations.
-  Children and youth that are doubled-up with others due to a loss of housing or other similar situations.
-  Children of migratory families, to the extent that they are staying in accommodations not fit for habitation.
-  Children and youth that have run away from home and are living in runaway shelters, etc.
-  School-age unwed mothers and expectant mothers living in homes for unwed mothers.
-  Children whose parents won't permit them to live at home, so they live in the streets, shelters, or are doubled-up with others.


## What Are the Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth?

Homeless children and youth have the right to access the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to all other children.

 Homeless families **DO NOT** need to provide a permanent address in order to enroll children in school, nor do youth on their own need to provide this information before enrolling. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.

 A homeless child or youth may remain in the school he/she attended before becoming homeless if that is determined to be in the best interest of the child.

 Lack of school records, immunization records, or birth certificate cannot prevent a homeless student from enrolling in a new school.

 Homeless children have the same rights to school programs and services as all children – including school breakfast and lunch, before- and after-school programs, preschool programs, transportation, special education, gifted and talented programs, and career and technology programs.