

Children Experiencing Homelessness

[http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum and Instructional Programs/Special Education/Programs and Services/State Guidance/Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness/](http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum_and_Instructional_Programs/Special_Education/Programs_and_Services/State_Guidance/Children_and_Youth_Experiencing_Homelessness/)

## **Homeless Services**

### **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act**

The McKinney-Vento Act is the federal law reauthorizing the Stewart B. McKinney Act that governs the education of children and youth in homeless situations. This act was signed into law in January 2002, and was effective July 1, 2002.

### **Texas Education Code**

In response to the federal legislation, Texas has its own state laws that, in conjunction with the McKinney Act, preserve the rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness and govern their admission to and attendance in school.

### **Subtitle B -Education for Homeless Children and Youths**

*The term 'homeless children and youths' -*

1. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and
2. includes -
  1. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
  2. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
  3. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  4. migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Dumas ISD identifies homeless students through the residency form as part of the registration process and through campus counselors. Dumas ISD has identified the Homeless Liaison as the Student Services Director. Under the direction of the Student Services Director, the district has identified the counselors on each campus. The initial family contact will begin with the campus of origin. The Student residence questionnaire for documentation purposes are provided at registration as well as to each campus counselors. If further investigation is required the counselor will contact the district liaison. The Student Services Director will review and make the decision for each identified student and what processes will be put into place for the students benefit.

Contact - District Homeless Liaison, Cindy Rhoades  
806-935-6461

**At school, ask about these special services:**

- Free breakfast and lunch programs
- Tutoring programs
- Programs to help children learn English
- Gifted or Talented programs
- Summer school programs
- Pre K programs
- Homeless assistance programs