



Homeless Information and Resources

Homeless Education

Children and youth who lose their homes do not also have to lose their connection to the school. They are covered by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Keeping homeless children and youth connected to school provides them with a source of stability and normalcy while supporting academic achievement and mental and emotional security.

If your family lives in any of the following situations then your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act:

- In a shelter, motel, hotel, or campground,
- On the street, in an abandoned building, trailer or car, or other inadequate accommodation
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing
- In the above conditions and is a migratory child or youth

What Families Experiencing Homelessness Need to Know

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have a right to attend school.
- You do not need a permanent address to enroll your child in school.
- Children and youth experiencing homelessness may remain in their school of origin or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance zone are eligible to attend, which ever circumstance proves to be in their best interest.
- Schools must provide you with a written explanation if a placement dispute occurs. Contact your local Homeless Liaison for assistance in handling a placement dispute.
- Your child cannot be denied school enrollment because school records or other enrollment documentation is not immediately available.
- Your child may have the right to transportation services to and from the school of origin if determined feasible.
- Your child has the right to participate in extracurricular activities and all federal, state, or local programs for which he/she is eligible. Transportation may not be available for these activities.
- Unaccompanied youth have these same rights.

Legal Reference: The McKinney-Vento Assistance Act (42 U.S. C. 11431 et seq.) at Subtitle B of title VII. (Reauthorized 2002)

Free and Reduced Lunch Procedures

Homeless students are entitled to free breakfast and lunch and **DO NOT** need to fill out the regular application. To obtain meal assistance, please contact the Homeless Liaison, Ellen Crist at 757-868-3050. The Homeless Liaison will approve the request and submit it to Food Services. Please do not contact Food Services directly; the request must be done through the homeless program.

Who are "Unaccompanied Youth?"

They are youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian including:

- Young people who have run away from home.
- Young people who have been forced to leave their homes.

Their possible living situations include:

- Living with friends (couch surfing).
- Living in shelters.
- Living in cars, at campgrounds, in abandoned buildings or on the streets.

School may be the only safe, stable environment for unaccompanied youth. Schools can provide the needed support to ensure continued academic success for these vulnerable students. In addition to academics, schools can offer adult and peer support, meals, referral to medical and mental health services, sports clubs and other activities. Schools should also connect these young people to other resources and supports available in the community.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires immediate enrollment of these students and protects their right to attend school without parental involvement. Schools must immediately enroll "unaccompanied youth" even if they do not have the documents that are usually required, such as proof of residence, school records, medical records, or guardianship papers. Transportation assistance must be provided if the student needs transportation to the school or origin.

Although there is no mandatory requirement to report an "unaccompanied youth" to law enforcement or Child Protective Services, a situation should be reported to CPS or the police if there is suspicion that the student is in an unsafe circumstance. For further assistance, contact the school division homeless liaison, Ellen Crist at 757-868-3050.

Transportation Procedures

Poquoson City Public Schools will provide transportation assistance for homeless students so that the student may remain at his/her school of origin. This transportation is arranged through the Homeless Liaison. It takes three to five working days for transportation arrangements to be put in place. Transportation can also be arranged to accommodate those students who participate in after school activities. Once transportation is set up the parent/guardian is called and advised of the start date and time of the transportation.

To obtain transportation assistance, please contact Ellen Crist at 757-868-3050.

Scholarship Information

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) LeTendre Education Fund Scholarship is available to students who:

- Are homeless or who have been homeless during their school attendance;
- Have demonstrated average or higher than average achievement;
- Are high school seniors, students enrolled in a GED or other alternative education program, or recent graduates/GED recipients;
- Have not reached their 21st birthday by September 1 of the year of application/award;
- Have completed no more than one year of college.

Eligible students must complete an application form, complete a 500-1000 word essay on the impact of homelessness on their lives and their desire to attend college, send an official school transcript, and a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who can speak to the applicant's qualifications and experiences.

Applications may be downloaded from the NAEHCY website.

Resources

Food & Clothing Resources

- FISH: 757-220-9379
- Parish Thrift Shop: 757-868-0357
- St. Luke's Methodist Church Food Closet: 757-898-9057
- Salvation Army Food Pantry: 757-229-6651
- The Breakthrough Worship Center Food Pantry: 757-865-1189
- York-Poquoson Social Services Food Pantry: 757-890-3787
- Bargain Box Assistance Line: 757-898-8688
- Virginia Peninsula Foodbank: 596-7188

Medical Services: Walk-In Health Clinics

- Lackey Free Clinic: 757-886-0608
- Old Towne Medical Center: 757-259-3258

Medical Services: Hospitals

- Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital: 757-886-6000
- Riverside Regional Medical Center: 757-594-2000
- Sentara CarePlex Hospital: 757-736-1000
- Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Hospital: 757-984-6000
- Riverside Doctor's Hospital Williamsburg: 757-585-2200

Medical Services: Urgent Care

- M.D. Express Yorktown: 757-890-6339
- Patient First Denbigh: 757-283-8300
- Sentara Urgent Care: 757-736-3725
- Patient First Hampton: 757-951-1579
- M.D. Express Hampton: 757-224-0056

Medical Services: Mental Health Services

- Family Focus: 757-898-2945
- Health Department (Peninsula Health District): 757-594-7300
- New Horizon's Family Counseling Center: 757-221-2363
- Colonial Behavioral Health: 757-898-7926

Medical Services: Low-Cost Medical Insurance Assistance

- Medicaid Services: 757-890-3787

Housing/Shelter

- Avalon Center of Williamsburg: 757-258-5051 / 757-258-5022 / 800-799-7233
- United Way First Call: 757-229-2222
- LINK of Hampton Roads; Upper End: 757-259-5340; Lower End: 757-595-1953
- Salvation Army Shelter: 757-838-4875
- York-Poquoson American Red Cross: 757-898-3090
- York-Poquoson Social Services: 757-890-3930

24-Hour Hotline

- Adult Protection Hotline (Toll Free): 888-832-3858 / 757-890-3787

- Child Abuse Hotline (Toll Free): 800-552-7096 / 804-786-8536
- Volunteer Services/Donations: 757-890-3941

Child Services

- Juvenile Court Services: 757-890-3470
- Family Focus: 757-898-3945
- The Infant & Toddler Connections: 804-786-3710 / 757-441-1186

Legal Aid

- Legal Aid Society (Intake & Referral Unit): 866-534-5243
- Virginia Lawyer Referral Service: 804-775-0808
- Poquoson Police 757-868-3501

York Poquoson Services

- Financial Assistance: 757-890-3787
- Food Stamps: 757-890-3787
- Fraud Investigation: 757-890-3961
- Fuel Assistance: 757-890-3787
- Protective Services: 757-890-3787
- LINK of Hampton Roads: 757-595-1953

National Resources

- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty](#)
- [National Network for Youth](#)

Local Area Contact:

Ellen Crist , MSW
Homeless Liaison
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