

The term “homeless children and youth,” refers to individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Under the law a child may qualify as homeless if he/she is:

- Living in an emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, or transitional housing;
- Living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground, were abandoned in a hospital, or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Living in a car, park, public place, bus or train station, abandoned building, or other structure not meant for housing;
- Doubled up with relatives or friends due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Children who are not living with a parent or legal guardian may be considered a homeless, unaccompanied youth if their living situation meets one of the four definitions listed above.

## McKinney Vento Program

The McKinney Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program was designed to make sure all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate education as children and youth who are not homeless. This includes preschool education.

State and local educational agencies are required to develop, review and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance and success in school that homeless children and youth may experience.

Local education agencies also must provide homeless children and youth with the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held.

## Information & Resources

**Coalition on Homelessness and Housing (COHHIO)**  
[www.cohhio.org](http://www.cohhio.org)  
(614) 280-1984

**LAU Resources Center for English as a Second Language (ESL) Bilingual and Multicultural Education**  
[www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov)  
Keyword: Limited English Proficient Students  
(614) 466-9827

**National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)**  
[www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org) (866) 862-2562

**National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP)**  
[www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org) (202) 638-2535

**SERVE Improving Learning through Research and Development**  
[www.center.serve.org/nche](http://www.center.serve.org/nche)  
(800) 308-2145

**U.S. Department of Education**  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)  
(800) 872-5327

### **Tabitha Muse**

**McKinney-Vento Coordinator**  
**Chillicothe City School District**  
421 Yoctangee Pkwy.  
Chillicothe OH 45601  
**Office: (740) 702-2287 ext. 16407**  
**Fax: (740) 773-1097**  
**Cell: (740) 466-8832**  
[tabitha.muse@ccsd.us](mailto:tabitha.muse@ccsd.us)

**Ms. Susannah Wayland**  
State Coordinator-  
Ohio Department of Education  
25 S. Front St.  
Columbus OH 43215  
(614) 387-7725



## A Parent's Guide to the Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



## The Rights of Homeless Parents and their Children

Your child has the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there;
- Stay in the school that he or she was attending before becoming homeless or the school he or she last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if you do not have all the paperwork, such as your child's school or medical records;
- Access to the same special programs and services that are provided to other children, including special education and vocational education;
- Receive the same public education that is provided to other children, including preschool. (Your child cannot be separated from the mainstream school environment because he or she is homeless. He or she cannot be segregated in a separate school, separate programs within a school or separate settings within a school);
- To appeal the district's decision regarding the school to which your child has been assigned. Your child has the right to go to the school of your choice while the dispute is being resolved. If your child is assigned to a school not of your choosing, the school district must explain its decision in writing.

## If you move, you should....

- Contact the school district's liaison for assistance in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school;
- Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to the new situation;
- Tell the school the date you are leaving and start the transfer of your records;
- Ask for a copy of your child's school records including:
  - An updated transcript;
  - The grade your child is in;
  - Any important medical information about your child's needs;
  - Scores your child made on any standardized tests.

## Other Local Educational Resources:

**CCSD Title 1 Parent Coordinator-  
Brenda Southworth**  
(740) 774-1119 ext. 16606

**CCSD Parent Mentor- Bethany Estep**  
Bethany.estep@ccsd.us

**Autism Collaboration Team- ACT**  
(740) 701-3835

**Ross County Board of Developmental Disabilities**  
(740) 775-7044

**Pickaway Ross Career & Tech. Center**  
(740) 642-1200



The Cavalier Closet is a shelf-stable food and necessity item pantry designed to meet the basic needs of our students and families in need in every building; CHS, CMS, CIS, CPS and Mt. Logan Early Childhood Center.

### Items available in the

#### Cavalier Closet:

- Necessity/Toiletry Items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene items, etc.
- Home items: Toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap, new blankets
- Shelf-Stable Food Items: (canned vegetables/fruit/soup/meals, boxed pastas/meals, cereal, individually packed snacks, peanut butter, jelly, instant mashed potatoes, dry beans, pasta sauce, etc)
- School supplies & back packs.

**#cavaliercloset**  
**#CavsCare**