Information and Resources

CHIP – Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention
www.chipindy.org
(317) 630-0853

National Cernter for Homeless Education (NCHE)
nche.ed.gov (800) 308-2145

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
www.naehcy.org • (866) 862-2562

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
www.nlchp.org • (202) 638-2535

SERVE Improving Learning through Research and Development
www.center.serve.org/nche
(800) 308-2145 (Toll-free)

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov
(800) USA-LEARN • (800) 872-5327
(Toll Free)

Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth
INEHCY -

Gina Woodward, State Coordinator
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program
Indiana Department of Education
115 W. Washington Street South Tower, Suite 600 Indianapolis, IN 46204
Office: 317.232.9189

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

E-mail:gwoodward1@doe.in.gov
Website: www.doe.in.gov
Keyword: Homeless Program

Homeless Liaison Contact Information

Yolanda Williams
McKinney Vento/ESSA POC
Neighbors' New Vistas High School
5201 US Highway 6, Portage, IN 46368
219/841-7048
ywilliams@neoadulted.org

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

Indiana Department of Education

www.doe.in.gov

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 best interest of the child;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if you do not have all the paperwork, such as your child's school or medical records;
- Access the same special programs and services that are provided to other children, including special education, migrant 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).

If your child is assigned to a school not of your choosing, the school district must explain its decision in writing.

You have the right 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 you move, you should...

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education for help 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 on any standardized tests;
  - If possible, allow your child to say goodbye to friends and teachers.

How you can help your child?

- Make sure your child attends school every day;
- Read to your child. Even a few minutes a day makes a difference;
- Make education a family priority;
- Help your child develop good study habits;
- Meet with your child's teachers and other school personnel.

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 public 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 educational 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.