

In Iowa, the rules regarding Education for Homeless children are located in [281--Iowa Administrative Code 33](#). These rules add further guidance to school districts regarding education of homeless children and youth and cover the following:

- A homeless child or youth of ages 3-21;
- A child who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:
 - a child who is sharing the housing of others (includes doubled-up families) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 - a child living in a hotel, motel, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
 - a child living in an emergency or transitional shelter;
 - a child that is abandoned in a hospital;
 - a child that is awaiting foster care placement; (until 12/10/16);
 - a child who has a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - a child who is living in a car, park, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting;
 - a migratory child/youth who qualifies as homeless because of the living circumstances described above; or
 - youth who have run away or youth being forced to leave home.

Educational Rights of Homeless Youth

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there;
- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed, or the school in which the child was last enrolled;
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records;
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for transfer of records;

Educational Rights of Homeless Youth Continued...

- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services;
- Have access to free school meals/lunch programs;
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited

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