Know Your Rights

Does my Child have the same rights as other school Children?

Your Child has the same rights to school programs and services as all children, including:

School Breakfast & Lunch
Before/After School Programs
Preschool Programs
Transportation
Special Education
Gifted and Talented Programs
Career & Technology Education

Who can I call if I have questions?

Call your Local District's Homeless Education Coordinator:

ALLEGANY (301) 759-2064
ANNE ARUNDEL (410) 518-8872
BALTIMORE CITY (410) 443-642-2425
BALTIMORE (410) 887-6485
CALVERT (410) 535-7234
CAROLINE (410) 479-3253
CARROLL (410) 386-1838
CECIL (410) 996-1050
CHARLES (301) 934-7210
DORCHESTER (410) 901-6940
FREDERICK (301) 644-5290
GARRETT (301) 334-8938
HARFORD (410) 588-5282
HOWARD (410) 313-7334
KENT (410) 810-3170
MONTGOMERY (301) 230-0686
PRINCE GEORGE’S (301) 925-2482
QUEEN ANNE’S (410) 758-2403 ext. 154
SOMERSET (410) 681-6269
ST. MARY’S (301) 475-8511 ext 159
TALBOT (410) 822-0330
WASHINGTON (301) 766-8776
WICOMICO (410) 677-4549
WORCESTER (410) 632-5079

MD State Coordinator (410) 767-0945

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs.

For inquiries related to departmental policy, contact the: Equity Assurance and Compliance Office
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore MD 21201
(410) 767-0425, (410)333.6442 TTY/TDD, (410) 333-2226
Charlene M., Ph. D., President
Maryland State Board of Education
Lillian M. Lowery, Ed. D., Secretary-Treasurer of Board/
State Superintendent of Schools
Ann E. Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Student, Family & School Support
Martin O’Malley, Governor

Tel: (410) 767.0945
What is in the “best interest” for my child; to stay in the same school or change schools?

The decision about your child’s school enrollment will take into consideration factors such as:

- Special needs for your child
- Continuity of instruction
- Length of stay in your new location
- Time and distance to transport your child to and from school

If you have concerns about the school your child will attend, call the telephone number on the back of this brochure and ask for the Homeless Education Coordinator.

If I am homeless, what documents do I need to enroll my child in school?

- School Records
- Birth Certificate
- Immunizations

If you do not have these documents, your child cannot be denied entry into school. The school must help you obtain any necessary documents for enrollment.

As a homeless parent, you have the right to decide, along with your child’s school, whether it is in the best interest of your child to:

- Stay in the same school he or she attended before you became homeless (this is the “school of origin”); or
- Transfer to the school that is closest to your new location.

To the extent that is feasible, the Local School System will enroll your child in either school.

Can my child ride the school bus?

Your child’s school should help you get transportation for your child.

You cannot be denied access to the school that is in the best interest for your child because of lack of transportation.

“... the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is to ensure that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth”

- Stewart B. McKinney
- Homeless Assistance Act