

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

1 Immediate Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to enroll in class and participate in school activities **immediately** even if they lack

- ◇ Immunization records, school records, birth certificate, proof of residence or guardianship, etc.;
- ◇ school uniforms or school fees; or
- ▶ The school must assist the student in obtaining missing records after enrollment.

Choice of school & transportation²

Homeless students have the choice to attend:

1. The 'school of origin,' which is the school the student last attended or attended before becoming homeless, even if it is out of the local school zone or district. **OR**
2. The 'local' or 'zoned' school, which is the school attended by others living in the same area as the student's current residence.

▶ If a homeless student attends the school of origin, he or she has the right to **free transportation** to school

▶ The decision about which school the student should attend should be based on the student's **best interests** and the parent/guardian's wishes.

Unfold for more info on equal access to services & resources!

Equal Access to Programs/Support³

Homeless students must have access to education programs and services,

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ◇ Sports/clubs | ◇ Gifted/talented |
| ◇ Special education | ◇ Bilingual/ESL |
| ◇ Tutoring | ◇ Vocational |
| ◇ Before/after-school | ◇ Summer school |

*Schools **cannot** charge homeless students fees for these programs and activities and must remove other barriers, like strict application deadlines or admission requirements.*

▶ **Meals:** You are automatically eligible for free lunch and breakfast.

▶ **Referrals:** Schools should connect you to healthcare, counseling, food pantries, help with housing, and other resources.

Assert your rights

If you are homeless or without stable housing, tell a trusted school employee or ask to speak with your school district's Homeless Education Coordinator about how to get information and supports. Open the fold to find their contact information.

Questions?
We're here to help you.

Public Justice Center

Education Stability Project

toll free (877) 625-9409

<http://publicjustice.org>



This pamphlet is produced by the Public Justice Center and is intended to provide information only. If you need legal advice or are considering taking legal action, you should consult an attorney.

NOTES

Doubled up?
Couch surfing?
Out on your own?
Staying at a shelter?
Not sure where you'll stay?

You have the right
to an equal education.

