

Resources for Homeless Families

- **Helpline:**
Call this number for referrals. 770-995-3339
- **Ministries:**
The following organizations can help with rent, emergency housing, utility bills, clothing, and food. Call the ministry in your area.
 - Duluth Cooperative Ministry 770-623-9563
 - Lawrenceville Coop. Ministry 770-339-7887
 - Lilburn Cooperative Ministry 770-931-8333
 - Norcross Cooperative Ministry 770-263-8268
 - North Gwinnett Ministry 770-271-9793
 - Southeast Ministry 770-985-5229
 - St. Vincent de Paul 770-458-9607
 - Bread of Life (Food) 770-513-0492
- **Impact:**
This organization can help with rent and transitional housing. 678-291-0305
- **Health Department:**
This agency offers health services and immunizations. 770-638-5700
- **Department of Family & Children's Services:**
This agency can help with Food Stamps, Medicaid, Peachcare, and Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF).
 - Lawrenceville Office 678-518-5500
 - Buford Office 770-614-2500
 - Norcross Office 770-638-5790

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Education Of Homeless Children And Youth

A Guide for Parents



GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a law passed in 1987 and re-authorized in 2002 under the No Child Left Behind Act. This Act removes barriers to access or success for homeless children in school.

How does the law define homelessness?

An individual is “homeless” who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition of homelessness includes those living in shelters, motels, campgrounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or other inadequate shelter. The law also includes situations in which an individual shares housing with relatives or others because he or she has lost housing or cannot afford housing.

What are my child’s rights under the McKinney-Vento Act?

A child considered homeless under the law has:

- The right to immediate enrollment in school;
- The right to attend school of origin or in the attendance area where the family currently resides;
- The right to receive transportation to school of origin if in the best interest of the child;
- The right to receive a free school lunch; and
- The right to comparable services as other students, including extracurricular activities and supplemental services.

If my child and I become homeless during the school year what should I do?

Ask to speak to your child’s counselor or a Homeless Outreach Social Worker. There are many ways in which they can be of assistance.

Who is the social worker serving my child’s school?

The Homeless Outreach Social Workers are assigned to serve students and schools within particular clusters. Here is contact information, along with assigned clusters:

- **Michael Frech** 678-226-7655
Working with children in the Berkmar, Collins Hill, Duluth, Meadowcreek, Norcross, North Gwinnett, Parkview, and Peachtree Ridge clusters.
- **Monica Landress** 678-226-7654
Working with children in the Brookwood, Central Gwinnett, Dacula, Grayson, Mill Creek, Shiloh, and South Gwinnett clusters.

If you are unsure of your school cluster, call 678-301-7270.

To resolve disputes, contact the State Coordinator for Homeless Education at 404-656-4148.

As a parent, how can I help my child?

- Make sure that your child comes to school every day and on time. Send a note or proof of a doctor's appointment if your child has an excused absence.
- Keep a folder or bag where you keep all of your child’s important records (grades/progress reports, immunization records, birth certificate, Individual Education Plan or IEP, etc.).
- Attend parent/teacher conferences, meetings, and events at school. If you cannot attend, let your child’s teacher know that you will not attend and try to reschedule the meeting.
- Communicate your needs to school staff. They can help!