

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS HAVE THE RIGHT TO A FREE, APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

## Who is Homeless?\*

Anyone, *due to a lack of housing*, who lives

- In emergency or transitional shelters;
- In motels, hotels, trailer parks, camp grounds, abandoned in hospitals, or is awaiting foster care placement;
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings;
- Doubled up with relatives or friends; or
- In these conditions and is a migratory child or youth.

\*To determine homelessness, consider the **permanence** and **adequacy** of the living situation.

## Where can children and youth experiencing homelessness attend school?

- The school the child or youth attended before becoming homeless or was last enrolled (school of origin), or
- The school in the attendance area where the child or youth is temporarily living.

## How can delays be avoided when enrolling a student experiencing homelessness in school?

- Children and youth in homeless situations **must be enrolled immediately**.
- If school records are unavailable, contact the previous school and ask that the records be sent electronically or share information over the phone.
- Ask that a student's immunization records be transferred over the phone from the sending school to the receiving school.
- Contact your school division, principal, counselor, or local homeless education liaison with any concerns.
- Unaccompanied youth may contact the local homeless education liaison for support when enrolling in school.

## Where can I get help?



P.O. Box 8795  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795  
757-221-4002 / Toll Free: 877-455-3412  
TDD: 757-221-2302 / Fax: 757-221-2988  
E-mail: [homlss@wm.edu](mailto:homlss@wm.edu)  
[www.wm.edu/hope](http://www.wm.edu/hope)

## Local Homeless Education Liaison