

## Resources for Homeless Families

**Gwinnett Helpline** 770-995-3339  
*For resource information*

### COMMUNITY AGENCIES

*For limited assistance with rent, emergency housing, utility bills, clothing, and food*

#### Cooperative (Co-op) Ministries

**Duluth** 770-623-9563  
**Lawrenceville** 770-339-7887  
**Lilburn** 770-931-8333  
**Norcross** 770-263-8268  
**North Gwinnett** 770-271-9793  
**Southeast** 770-985-5229

**St. Vincent de Paul** 770-458-9607

#### HOUSING RESOURCES

*Short-term, long-term, and emergency options*

**HOPE Atlanta** 404-817-7070

**Action Ministries** 404-881-1991

**Family Promise of Gwinnett** 678-786-1359

**Salt Light Center** 678-376-8950

**Rainbow Village** 770-497-1888

**Salvation Army's Home Sweet Home Program** 770-724-1661

**Home of Hope at Gwinnett Children's Shelter** 678-546-8770

**Project Community Connections, Inc.** 404-215-9991

*Current June 2018*

**Buford Housing Authority** 770-945-5212

**Lawrenceville Housing Authority** 770-963-4900

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs** 404-327-7912/  
404-679-4940  
[www.dca.ga.gov](http://www.dca.ga.gov)

#### HELP FOR HOMELESS TEENS

**YO Gwinnett** 770-837-6684

#### HELP WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Partnership Against Domestic Violence** 770-963-9799

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*For minor dental & medical services, including immunizations*

**Buford Health Ctr.** 770-614-2401  
**Lawrenceville Health Ctr.** 770-339-4283  
**Norcross Health Ctr.** 770-638-5700  
**Lilburn WIC Clinic** 678-924-1546

**Gwinnett County DFCS** 678-518-5500  
*For food stamps, Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, & Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*

#### Gwinnett County Public Schools

**Homeless Liaison**  
Carla Wallace, LMSW  
678-301-6882

#### Georgia Department of Education Homeless Ed. Program Consultant

Erica Glenn  
404-295-4705

Gwinnett County Public Schools does not endorse any of the above agencies. This list is for informational purposes only. All fees incurred are the responsibility of the parent/guardian/student. This is not a complete list of resources in Gwinnett County or metro Atlanta. Please seek other sources of information for additional resources.

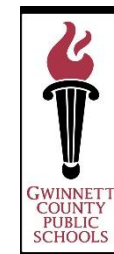
# Education of Homeless Children & Youth

## A Guide for Parents and Guardians



### GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

437 Old Peachtree Rd., NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-6000



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a law passed in 1987 and re-authorized in 2015 under the Every Child Succeeds Act. The act ensures that homeless students and unaccompanied homeless youth are successful in school by removing barriers to access.

### How does the law define homelessness?

An individual is homeless if he or she lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The 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 the housing of relatives or others because he or she has lost housing or cannot afford housing due to economic hardship.

### What are my student's rights under the McKinney-Vento Act?

A student considered homeless under the law has the right to immediate school enrollment even if health & school records are not available. The student may attend either the school of origin or the school in the attendance zone where they family resides and may receive transportation to the school of origin when feasible and in the best interest of the child. The student also has the right to comparable services including transportation, educational services, supplemental services, extra-curricular activities, and free meals through the School Nutrition Program



### Will school personnel treat my child differently if he/she is homeless?

Homeless students and unaccompanied homeless youth may not be stigmatized by school personnel.

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

Ask to speak to your child's Counselor or School Social Worker. You will be offered a Student Residency Questionnaire to complete.

### Who can I call if I need assistance?

Contact the GCPS Homeless Liaison or the School Social Worker who serves your child's school.

### Can my child stay at his/her school if we become homeless and have to move out of the school zone?

If a parent/guardian of a homeless student requests continued enrollment of the student in the school the student had been attending prior to becoming homeless (school of origin), the student may continue to attend that school. The parent/guardian must complete the School of Origin section of the Student Residency Questionnaire. The decision will be based on the feasibility of enrollment and the best interest of the student. If the request for school of origin is denied by the Homeless Liaison, a written explanation will be provided to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian may dispute the decision.



### How does my child receive transportation to his/her school of origin?

If you are living outside the attendance zone for the school of origin, you will need to complete an HEP Transportation Request at your school. If the request is deemed feasible and in the best interest of the student, it will be approved. It generally takes 7-10 school days for routing to take place. A representative from the transportation department will call you prior to the start of transportation. Gas cards may be available to help you transport your child to school temporarily while you await the start of bus transportation.

### If I don't agree with a school enrollment decision, how do I file a dispute?

**Step 1:** The parent/guardian must respond in writing to both the Homeless Liaison and the GCPS Executive Director of Academic Support within five days of receiving the written decision to deny enrollment. Failure to appeal in writing within five days will be considered acceptance of the enrollment decision. Information in the written request for resolution must be consistent with the information originally presented to the enrolling school.

**Step 2:** The GCPS Executive Director of Academic Support will make a final school system determination and will respond in writing to the parent/guardian.

**Step 3:** If the parent/guardian does not agree with the decision of the GCPS Executive Director of Academic Support, he/she must immediately appeal to the Georgia Department of Education for a final determination. Contact Erica Glenn, Homeless Education Program Consultant, at 404-295-4705.

