

## Resources for Homeless Families

**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

**Bread of Life (Food)** 770-513-1007

### Housing Resources:

*For short- and long-term housing resources for families with children.*

### Partnership Against Domestic

**Violence** 770-963-9799

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

**Travelers Aid of Metro Atlanta**  
404-817-7070

**Action Ministries** 404-881-1991

**Family Promise of Gwinnett**  
678-376-8950

**Rainbow Village** 770-497-1888

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

### Affordable Housing Resources:

*For information on low-cost housing options.*

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

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

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs**  
404-327-7912

### Health Department:

*For minor dental and medical services, including immunizations.*

**Buford Health Center** 770-614-2401

**Lawrenceville Health Center**  
770-339-4283

**Lilburn WIC Clinic** 678-924-1546

**Norcross Health Center** 770-638-5700

### Dept. of Family & Children's Services:

*For Food Stamps & Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, and Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF).*

**Gwinnett County** 678-518-5500

### Gwinnett County Public Schools Homeless Liaison

Pamela Jemerson 678-301-6882

### Georgia Department of Education Homeless Education Program Consultant

Erica Glenn 404-295-4705

*Gwinnett County Public Schools does not endorse or recommend any of the above agencies, as this list is for informational purposes only. Any fees incurred are the responsibility of the parent/guardian and/or student. This is not a complete list of assistance resources in Gwinnett County or in the Metro Atlanta area. Please seek out other sources of information for additional resources.*

# Education of Homeless Children and Youth

## A Guide for Parents and Guardians

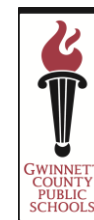


### GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978

678-301-6000

[www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://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 2015 under the Every Student Succeeds Act. The McKinney-Vento 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 due to economic hardship.

### 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 without having health and school records available;
- The right to attend either the school of origin or the school in the attendance area where the family currently resides;
- The right to receive transportation to school of origin when feasible and in the best interest of the child, if requested by parent/guardian
- The right to access comparable services, including transportation services, educational services, supplemental services, extra-curricular activities, and free meals through the School Nutrition Program .



Homeless children and youth may not be stigmatized by school personnel

Families of homeless children and youth have the right to dispute enrollment if the local school sends the homeless child or youth to a school other than the school of origin requested by the parent/guardian or by an unaccompanied youth.

### 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.



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

Contact the GCPS homeless liaison or the school social worker who serves your child’s school.

### If I have an enrollment dispute, what are my options?

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school;

- The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.
- The parent/guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment.
- If the matter is not resolved at the school level, the Homeless Liaison shall carry out the dispute resolution process as quickly as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Liaison shall ensure the youth is immediately enrolled in the school pending resolution of the dispute.

If a parent/guardian of a homeless student requests enrollment of his or her child in the school that the student had been attending prior to becoming homeless (school of origin), the student will be immediately enrolled. The parent/guardian must complete the School of Origin Form which is sent to the Homeless Liaison for determination of local school enrollment. The decision will be based on the feasibility of enrollment and the best interest of the student. If the request for school of origin by the parent/guardian is denied by the Homeless Liaison, the parent/guardian may dispute the decision through the following process:

### Process for Dispute Resolution

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

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

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