

Every Child Has a Right to an Education

The federal [Mckinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act](#) and [Texas state law](#) protect the

rights of homeless children and youth to receive a free and appropriate public education.



Nearly everyone

in Texas who is between the ages of 5 and 21 on September 1 of the school year and has not been expelled has the right to attend school, even if they:

- don't have a permanent address
- have a previous address in another town or state
- don't live with a parent or legal guardian
- live temporarily doubled-up with friends or family
- sleep in a shelter
- sleep in a campground, car, abandoned building, or other facility not designated for, or ordinarily used as regular accommodations for, human beings
- don't have school records



Waco ISD Homeless Outreach Services

**District Homeless Liaison and
Social Worker
Cheryl Pooler, LCSW**

**Case Manager for Homeless
Outreach
Kathy Wigtil, M. A.**

**501 Franklin Avenue
P.O. Box 27
Waco, TX 76703-0027
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WACO ISD



A Place for You:

Homeless Outreach Services



254-755-9433

Together for Education . . .

Waco ISD's history of serving students in transition was recently recognized by the Federal Government as we proudly accepted the TEXSHEP grant. This grants allows local educational agencies to implement educational and support services for children and youth in homeless situations. We are entrusted with the task of helping our students who are experiencing homelessness. This help is offered in a variety of ways. We hope that this brochure will help you to understand the services we offer in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act and the State of Texas. We also hope that you will share this information with others you know so that together we can build a strong foundation for our students.



Making the Connection

How do you enroll your child? Waco ISD is here to help. Local schools are your first stop. In most instances, the local registrar will be able to assist you with enrollment. Should you need further assistance, you may contact the following:

◆ Cheryl Pooler, LCSW

Homeless Liaison and Social Worker
for Homeless Outreach

755-9433

◆ Kathy Wigtil, M. A.

Case Worker for Homeless Outreach

750-3918

Considering Services

In order to assure that students in homeless situations have the opportunity to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school; the following services may be explored:

- ◆ Enrollment Assistance
- ◆ Free School Meals
- ◆ Transportation Services
- ◆ School Selection Provisions
- ◆ Access to Special Education

Enroll your child in school.

You can enroll your child even if you are missing immunization records, school records, and proof of residency.

Keep copies of critical records: immunizations, Social Security number, health

physicals, & individualized education programs (IEPs).

Ask questions

- * Is transportation available for my child to stay in the same school?
- * Will someone help us transfer records quickly when we move?
- * Is there a pre-school program?
- * Should my child be tested for special education?
- * Can my child receive free meals at school?
- * Are school supplies available?
- * Are there after-school study halls or tutoring available?
- * Are special counseling services available for my child?