

Vermont Students and Parents, Know Your Rights! Education Rights for Families with Housing Problems

Do you...

- Move a lot?
- Live in a motel or shelter?
- Live with friends or relatives?
- Live in a vehicle, campground, park, or abandoned building?
- Consider yourself to be homeless?

Because of...

- Eviction?
- Job loss?
- Foreclosure?
- Money problems?
- Natural or man-made disaster?
- Domestic violence?
- Aging-out of foster care?
- Another similar reason?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you or your school-age children **should know the following!**

- **YOUR CHILDREN HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO:**
 1. Attend and enroll in school **immediately** (even without all the paperwork)
 2. Enroll or remain in school without a permanent address
 3. Stay in the school of origin (when it is in their best interest)
 4. Go to school in the local school district
 5. Have transportation to and from school paid for by the school district
 6. Participate in **all** school-related programs, activities, and sports
 7. Receive special education services and accommodations (if eligible)
 8. **Automatically** qualify for free and reduced meals at school

What if the school refuses to let your child attend that school?

- All public schools **must** enroll children and youth who qualify as “homeless” according to the questions on page 1.
- If the school refuses to let your child attend and you disagree, the school **must**:
 1. Enroll your child until the dispute is resolved
 2. Quickly arrange a meeting with you and the school’s “homeless liaison”
 3. Tell you **in writing** why it does not believe your child can be enrolled
 4. Tell you about your right to appeal the school’s decision and how
 5. Continue to enroll you or your child during your appeal or until a suitable school is found

Are you under 18, and without a legal guardian or awaiting foster care placement?

- You still have a **RIGHT** to go to **YOUR** school!
- You have the **same rights** as described on page 1, use them!

Who should I contact with questions?

- If you are having an **enrollment dispute** with your preferred school and would like assistance, contact **VERMONT LEGAL AID** toll free at (800) 747-5022.
- Contact your local emergency shelter agency
- Contact your preferred district’s homeless liaison
 - More information can be found at:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homeless.html
- Contact the National Center for Homeless Education at (800) 308-2145 or homeless@serve.org.

