

Facts About Child and Family Homelessness



- On any given night, more than 3,500 children in Minnesota are homeless, and half are age 5 and younger.
- The number of homeless children in 2012 is more than four times greater compared to 1991.
- *Nearly one-third of homeless parents had their first experience with homelessness when they were less than 18 years of age.*

Source: 2012 Wilder Research Study on Homelessness in Minnesota
(<http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research>)

Homeless & Highly Mobile Students

Live in any of these conditions:

- In a shelter or transitional housing program
- In a motel, hotel or weekly rate housing
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because family cannot find or afford housing
- In an abandoned building, public space, car or other inadequate accommodation
- Awaiting foster care placement

The federal McKinney-Vento act ensures that Homeless & Highly Mobile Students have the rights to:

- Immediate enrollment
- Continue at the same school if transportation is feasible
- Attend special programs and services available to all other students
- And more! (see MPS Policy 5291 and accompanying regulations)

How to Reach Staff:

Margo Hurrle, MPS Shelter Office Coordinator	612.277.0210
Tina O'Shaughnessy, Data Tech	612.277.0211
Elena Shaw, High School Support Liaison	612.290.0362
Michele Goddard, Extended Day Coordinator	612.668.2784
Brenda Beyer, Building Bridges Coordinator	612.668.5029
Cynthia Hillyer, Early Childhood Education Director	612.668.3714

District Liaison for Homeless and Highly Mobile Students:

Ryan Strack	612.668.5480
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Funded Programs
Minneapolis Public Schools
1250 West Broadway | Minneapolis, MN 55411



Support Services for Homeless & Highly Mobile Students

Title I





Our Mission

To ensure that all students learn. We support their growth into knowledgeable, skilled and confident citizens capable of succeeding in their work, personal and family lives into the 21st century.



Homeless & Highly Mobile Students

Services provided to students and families:

- Immediate school placement and assistance with registration
- Records retrieval from previous school
- Initial English Language Learners and Special Education screening when appropriate
- School supplies, materials and books
- Refer families to early childhood services
- Inform parents and students about school attendance policies
- Refer families to community services
- Monitor student progress and advocate for students when necessary
- Help families and schools build strong relationships

Services we provide to schools:

- Information and training for staff about homeless students' needs, rights and resources
- Work with school social workers, teachers and other school staff on behalf of individual students with high needs or issues through the Building Bridges Project

12 Actions Principals and Teachers Can Take to Help Homeless & Highly Mobile Students:

1. Welcome students! Give them a sense of belonging.
2. Routinely review student expectations and classroom rules.
3. Keep students' living situation confidential.
4. Meet with parents soon after students begin school to share strengths.
5. Assign students a buddy to show them around and to foster peer relationships.
6. Problem solve with the students ways to complete homework and provide them with the necessary supplies.
7. Provide a place for students to keep their possessions safe.
8. Be aware of basic needs of students (i.e. clothing, food, health, hygiene) and work to meet these needs through the school or shelter.
9. Be in contact with the shelter staff for on-site homework assistance.
10. Ensure equal access to educational services, field trips and after-school activities.
11. Communicate with the health office about illnesses that may be related to stress and trauma.
12. Be in touch with the school social worker about resources to address social emotional issues of students.