

KEEP YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL.

Every child without a permanent residence has the right to a free and appropriate education.

Remember, education is the key to your child's future. Let us work with you to keep him or her on track and in school while you look for housing.

If you need help getting your children into school, you can call:

Ms. Mary William, MSW
Program Director

Homeless Education Resource Network
Special Education and Student Services
Boston Public Schools
443 Warren Street
Dorchester, MA 02121
Phone: 617-635-8037
Email: mwilliam@boston.k12.ma.us



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PARENTS KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.

**Homeless Education Resource Network
Special Education and Student Services
Boston Public Schools**

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES

You are your child's best friend. Be of help by knowing the following:

RIGHT #1

If you have moved from one residence to another during the school year, you have a choice. Your child can attend:

1. A school within the new town, city, geocode, or zone where you are temporarily living, or
2. The school in which he or she was last enrolled

You decide which school your child will attend. The choice is yours if you move across district lines or within the same district.

Also, if you move into a permanent residence during the course of the school year, you can choose to keep your children in the school they were attending when they were homeless **until the end of the school year**, or they can attend the school in the district in which your new permanent residence is located.

If you become homeless during the summer, between school years, and have to move, your child can return to the school that he or she was attending when the last school year ended, or enroll in school in the new district.

RIGHT #2

Schools must provide transportation to and from your child's school.

If you move to a different city/town you have the right to transportation back to the original school.

If you move to an area served by another district, the original district and the district in which the student resides must agree upon cost and responsibility for providing transportation.

RIGHT #3

Your child must be enrolled in school immediately, even if you do not have the records required for enrollment.

If you do not have immunization records, school records, or proof of residency your child must be enrolled. The Homeless Liaison can assist you in getting this documentation from the previously attended school/schools.

RIGHT #4

Your child is eligible for the free lunch program as soon as he/she enters school.

Your child is eligible for free lunch without filling out the application for free or reduced lunch. Documentation from the shelter provider or the Homeless Liaison will ensure free lunch immediately.

RIGHT #5

You have a right to file a complaint if you feel your child is being kept out of school unfairly.

If you have problems enrolling your child in school, contact your shelter provider or the Homeless Education Resource Network at 617-635-8037. Other people who can help you with questions or problems are other parents and/or advocates.

You have the right to file a complaint if you feel your child is not getting the correct school services. For more information check the Boston Public Schools Policy Handbook for Parents and Students.

Problem Solving Check List

REMEMBER!

Ask for copies of everything!

Keep copies of everything!

