

## **Homeless Awareness Program**

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The Hamburg Area Homeless Awareness Program is in place to address and support the educational needs of students who find themselves in temporary or transitional housing during the school year. The program reduces the barriers of homelessness, so students and their families feel supported and encouraged while they secure permanent housing.

### **The McKinney-Vento Act**

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence". The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels or campgrounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Sleeping locations not usually used as a sleeping accommodation
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations.

Under federal law, homeless children and youth are entitled to immediate enrollment in school and educational stability.

The act ensures homeless children transportation to and from school free of charge, allowing children to attend their school of origin (last school enrolled or the school they attended when they first became homeless) regardless of what district the family resides in.

It requires schools to register homeless children if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence.

### **School Districts Responsibilities**

School district must appoint a liaison to ensure school staff are aware of the McKinney-Vento Act, to provide public notice to homeless families, and to facilitate access to school and transportation services.

The position serves as liaison between the school, parents, students, and community agencies to meet the educational needs of the students.

If you have a student/child who may qualify for our program's assistance and services, or would like more information, please contact our Homeless Education Liaison: Director of Student Services, 610-562-2241