

ANNUAL NOTICE: HOMELESS CHILDREN and UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act requires school districts to identify a homeless liaison to assist students and families who are experiencing homelessness to ensure that homeless children and youth (twenty-one years of age and younger) have access to the same opportunities as non-homeless students so they can be successful in school.

The term “homeless children and youth” refers to individuals who lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” and MAY include the following possible living situations:

- ❖ Children and youth sharing the housing of friends/family members (i.e. doubled up) due to loss of housing, eviction, economic hardship, inability to pay rent, or a similar reason and have no other place to live;
- ❖ Children and youth who are living in temporary or unstable housing (i.e moving from place to place);
- ❖ Children and youth who are staying in a shelter (i.e. family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter, emergency shelter);
- ❖ Children and youth who are living in motels/hotels, weekly rate housing, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- ❖ Children and youth who are living in abandoned buildings, train stations, substandard housing, or spaces not designed for regular sleeping accommodations;
- ❖ Unaccompanied children and youth (i.e. youth who are not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and may be residing with other friends/family due to conflict, being a runaway, or kicked out) who qualify as homeless because they are living in similar circumstances listed above;
- ❖ Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in similar circumstances listed above.

If you are personally aware of, or are acquainted with, any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, the Burlington Area School District provides the following assurances to parents of homeless children:

- ❖ Local school district staff members (liaisons) to assist homeless children/families:
 - Lori Radtke, School Social Worker for EC-4th grades, (262) 763-0180 ext. 2224 or LRadtke@basd.k12.wi.us
 - Samantha Meyer, School Social Worker for 5th-12th grades, (262) 763-0200 ext. 1025 or SMeyer@basd.k12.wi.us
- ❖ Enrollment assistance and immediate enrollment and school participation, even if educational and medical records and proof of residency are not available.
- ❖ Waived school fees, along with waived field trip fees, materials fees, and extracurricular fees.
- ❖ Free breakfast and lunch.
- ❖ Assistance with obtaining necessary school supplies, hygiene items, and clothing materials.
- ❖ Referrals to other community resources, social service agencies, and programs that can assist homeless/transitional families with basic needs.
- ❖ All educational opportunities and related opportunities for homeless students (preschool to age 21), including unaccompanied youth, shall be the same as for the general student population.
- ❖ Enrollment and transportation rights, including transportation assistance to the school of origin (if eligible). “School of origin” is defined as the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- ❖ Written explanation of a child or youth’s school placement, other than school of origin or the school requested by the parent, with the right to appeal within the local school district dispute resolution process.
- ❖ Meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in the education of their children. These shall include: special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.

Please contact either Lori Radtke (EC-4th grades) or Samantha Meyer (5th-12th grades), homeless liaisons for the Burlington Area School District, for additional information about homeless-related issues. Lori Radtke can be reached at (262) 763-0180 ext. 2224 or LRadtke@basd.k12.wi.us, while Samantha Meyer can be reached at (262) 763-0200 ext. 1025 or SMeyer@basd.k12.wi.us.