

How Do I Get More Information or Help?

The Students in Transition Program's primary focus is meeting the educational needs of students who have been identified under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Our specific goals are to (1) eliminate barriers to school enrollment at the school of origin or neighborhood school, (2) improve daily attendance, (3) increase proficiency rates on all high stakes assessments, and (4) increase the graduation rates. The program works closely with all stakeholders to ensure educational stability for students.

If you have additional questions regarding services for students in transition, please contact:

**Students in Transition Program
(HELP Team)
(813) 315-HELP (4357)
Fax (813) 384-3979**

You may also refer to the school district website: www.sdhc.k12.fl.us and search "homeless."

Important Questions to Ask Your Child's School:

- Is my child eligible for free lunch?
- Is assistance available for school supplies?
- Is assistance available for uniforms?
- Do you have a pre-school program?
- Do you have before and after school programs?
- Do you have a summer program available?
- If we change schools, can my child's records be transferred to the new school?
- If we move, is transportation available back to this school?
- What can I do if I think my child is falling behind academically?
- Are there tutoring services available for my child?
- What is the best way to communicate with my child's teacher?



Support for Students in Transition



Students in Transition Program (HELP Team)

School Social Work Services
Hillsborough County Public Schools
(813) 315-HELP (4357)

Preparing Students for Life

Your child's education is key to their future success. Let us work together to keep your child on track in school while you look for employment and/or housing, let your child learn, play, and plan for the future in a warm and caring classroom.

Is My Child in Transition?

According to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, a child or youth is considered in transition (or homeless) if they *lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence* that includes one (1) of the following:

- Sharing the housing of other persons *temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason. (doubled-up)*
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters, or abandoned in hospitals.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Living in motels, hotels, temporary trailer parks, or camping grounds *due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.*

- Migratory children and/or Unaccompanied Youth living in one (1) of the previous circumstances described.

Your Child's Rights:

Every child has the right to a free and appropriate public education. Florida Statute s.1002.31 requires that all children attend school regularly until they are 16 years old. Children in transition who fit the federal definition of homelessness under the McKinney- Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act have the right to:

- ✓ Immediate school enrollment and attendance, even in the absence of records required for enrollment at either the ***school of origin*** (the school last attended before they lost their housing) **or** the ***neighborhood school*** (the school they are zoned for based upon their current living situation).
- ✓ Remain at their ***school of origin*** for the duration of the school year
- ✓ Transportation to and from school for the duration of the school year.
- ✓ Receive free breakfast and lunch immediately for the duration of the school year.

- ✓ Receive prompt resolutions about school placement, to include special education, bilingual education, gifted, and remedial programs.

What Other Support Services Can My Child Receive?

In addition to services required under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, your child may be able to receive services through the HELP Students in Transition Program:

- Assistance with the development of an academic plan and post-secondary planning.
- Transportation Assistance to and from "school of origin".
- Academic support and tutoring.
- Backpack, school supplies, and uniforms.
- Referrals to community agencies.