

## Additional Resources

[www.EnrollNOLA.org](http://www.EnrollNOLA.org)

Call 800-308-2145, email [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org), or visit [www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) can explain your child's educational rights and tell you how to contact the local liaison (advisor) in Louisiana. They can help enroll your child in school and make sure that your child receives the help that he or she needs.

### Parent Pack Pocket Folders

Parent Pack Pocket Folders are folders NCHE provides to applicable families, where parents can keep important educational records and files. The folder also explains the educational rights of children in homeless situations. Order these folders for free by calling 800-308-2145 (toll-free) or visiting <http://www.serve.org/nche>



All photo credits: Cheryl Gerber



Families who are new to New Orleans or enrolling in public school for the first time should visit an EnrollNOLA Family Resource Center to discuss their school options:

#### Uptown

Lawrence D. Crocker Elementary  
2300 General Taylor Street, 70115

#### Westbank

OPSB  
3520 General DeGaulle Drive,  
Suite 1101, 70114

#### New Orleans East

Livingston Collegiate Academy  
7301 Dwyer Road, 70126

Open Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 4 PM  
1-877-343-4773 | [EnrollNOLA.org](http://EnrollNOLA.org) |  
No appointment necessary

## Guidance for Families Experiencing Homelessness



- The McKinney-Vento Act
- How changing schools can affect your child's education
- How to make the best education decisions for your child
- Additional Resources

# Enroll your student in school today.

If you are living in inadequate or alternative housing (for example: shelter, motel, car, abandoned property, etc.) due to economic hardship or other circumstances, your student can still enroll in school without delay, and may even be eligible to receive assistance under the McKinney-Vento Act. Your child has the right to receive an appropriate education along with transportation assistance and additional educational services if needed.



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## What is the McKinney Vento Act?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding for the purpose of supporting districts that serve homeless families. Here are some questions you should think about regarding the services provided under this act:

- Who is the local homeless education liaison? How can I contact him or her? (refer to the Additional Resources page)
- What transportation is available for my child?
- If my child changes schools, who can help us transfer records?
- Can my child receive free or reduced-priced meals at school?
- Can my child receive free or reduced-priced school supplies, if needed?
- Who can help if my child needs special education services?
- How quickly can I receive these services?
- Is there academic help available for my child, like Title I programs or after-school tutoring?
- Are there programs that can help develop my child's talents and address his/her unique needs?
- Are there sports, music, or other activities available for my child?
- Can my child participate in field trips or other school activities if I cannot afford fees?
- What preschool programs are available?

## When I move, should I keep my child at his or her current school, or transfer them?

Moving from one school to another can be difficult for a child. Leaving a stable social environment, and adapting to new people and rules, can negatively impact your child's social and academic success. We recommend that your child remain at his or her school whenever possible.

Here are some questions to consider when deciding whether or not you should transfer schools:

- How old is your child?
- How permanent is your current living arrangement? Do you plan to move again soon?
- Is your child attached to his/her current school? (An older child who feels very connected to his/her current school and/or is about to graduate might have a harder time changing schools.)
- How much anxiety did moving cause your child? Would changing schools be overwhelming?
- Would changing schools cause your child to fall behind or struggle academically?
- Is this a good time of year for your child to change schools, such as at the end of a semester or school year, after testing, or after an event that is important to your child?
- How much time would your child have to spend going back and forth to the current school? A long ride might have a negative impact on your child's schoolwork.
- Are there safety issues to think about in choosing which school your child should attend?