

FACT SHEET: HOMELESS STUDENTS IN NEW JERSEY



Children who qualify as homeless have the right to:

- Immediate school enrollment, even when records are not present
- Remain in their school of origin (The school district where the child lived before displacement)
- Receive transportation to/from school of origin
- Receive support for academic success, including: bilingual/ESL, Intervention and Referral, Section 504 and/or special education

CHILDREN WHO QUALIFY AS HOMELESS ARE:

- Sharing the housing of other persons (“doubled up”)
- Living in a place that is intended to provide temporary living accommodations
- Living in a place not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation



DISTRICT HOMELESS LIAISONS

- Work in collaboration with enrollment personnel, school counselors and others
- Should be known and accessible to individuals who have been displaced
- Ensure that homeless families receive all needed education, support and nutrition services, including:
 - Preschool and school-age services;
 - Health care, dental care, and mental health services
 - Other needed services, such as transportation

IMPORTANT FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

The school district where the child lived prior to becoming homeless (“school district of origin”) is responsible for their education for as long as the family remains homeless -- including paying for tuition and transportation for child(ren) attending the district where they are temporarily living.

Parents/guardians of homeless students have the right to:

- Decide whether child(ren) will continue to attend their school of origin or the district where the family is currently living
- Appeal any decisions with which they disagree.

Note: A dispute or appeal may **not** delay the homeless student’s immediate entrance into school.

Find your District Homeless Liaison here:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/homeless/liaison.shtml>

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

- [SPAN Parent Advocacy Network](#)
- [Education Law Center’s Homeless Students’ Guide](#)
- [School Help for Homeless Children with Disabilities: Parent Resource Brief](#)
- [Homeless Prevention Contact List](#)
- [Housing Assistance Program](#)