**Definition of Homeless**

Local school districts must ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to a free, appropriate public education. Homeless children and youth are defined as those who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence**. This includes those who are:

- sharing housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
- living in motels, hotels, camping grounds, or dilapidated trailers due to lack of alternative housing;
- living in emergency or transitional housing;
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or bus and train stations;
- awaiting foster care;
- abandoned in hospitals;
- living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular place to sleep; and
- migrant students, living in a situation described above.

**Your Children’s Rights**

The federally-funded McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act established educational rights and protections for students experiencing homelessness. Homeless children and youth are entitled to:

- enroll in school without having a permanent address.
- enroll and attend school while arranging for required school records or documents.
- remain in the school attended before becoming homeless.
- receive special programs and services for which they are eligible.
- attend school and participate in school programs with students who are not homeless.
- receive assistance with transportation to school.

**When You Move**

Becoming homeless is highly disruptive to students in many ways. Whenever possible, use the following guidelines when moving is necessary.

- Inform your child’s teacher, guidance counselor, and principal that you are moving and give them the new address.
- Let school officials know if you want your child to remain in the same school.
- Ask for a copy of your child’s school records, including immunizations.
- Safeguard and keep a copy of school records, birth certificates, and all health and immunization records accessible.
- Have a reliable person keep a second copy of these important records.
- Enroll your child(ren) in school as soon as possible.

**Ask About School Services**

- Breakfast and lunch programs
- Transportation
- School supplies
Resources for Families

Homeless Assistance Corporation/STAR Center
340 North Street
Daytona Beach, Florida
Case Manager – (386) 252-9400

Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.
101 N. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL 32721
(386) 279-0029

Volusia County Human Services
Daytona Beach – (386) 254-4675
DeLand – (386) 736-5956
New Smyrna Beach – (386) 423-3309
Orange City – (386) 775-5204

United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, Inc.
First Call for Help – 211

Florida Department of Education
Homeless Education Program
(850) 245-0668

Florida Coalition for the Homeless
www.flacoalitionhomeless.com

Florida Department of Children and Families
www.dcf.state.fl.us/homelessness

National Resources

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
(763) 545-0064 or www.naehcy.org

National Center for Homeless
(800) 308-2145 or www.serve.org/nche

National Law Center on Homelessness
(202) 638-2535 or www.nlchp.org

National Coalition for the Homeless
www.nationalhomeless.org

For more information contact:
District Homeless Education Liaison
Department of ESE/Student Services
Halifax Area – (386) 255-6475
Southeast Area – (386) 427-5223
Westside Area – (386) 734-7190

Volusia County Schools
DeLand Administrative Complex
200 North Clara Avenue
DeLand, Florida 32721

Funding provided by McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act
Printed July 2014