

ANNUAL NOTICE OF RIGHTS

MCKINNEY VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

The McKinney-Vento Act defines children and youth who are homeless as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youth who are:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - Abandoned in hospitals; runaway children; or are awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

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

- There shall be immediate enrollment and school participation, even if educational and medical records and proof of residency are not available.
- All educational opportunities and related opportunities for homeless students, including preschool students and unaccompanied youth, shall be the same as for the general student population.
- The District shall act, according to the best interests of a homeless child and to the extent feasible, do one of the following: (For the purposes of this policy “school of origin” means the school the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.)
 - continue educating the child who become homeless between academic years or during an academic year in their school of origin for the duration of their homelessness;
 - continue educating the child in his/her school of origin who become permanently housed during an academic year for the remainder of the academic year; or
 - enroll the homeless child in the school appropriate for the attendance zone where the child lives.
- 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 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 the local liaison for homeless children, **Sherry Breckenridge, District Parent Coordinator:** **phone 870-588-0350; or email sbreckenridge@wynneschools.org for additional information regarding homeless issues in the Wynne School District.**