



On Your Own

School Services for Unaccompanied Youth

You are an unaccompanied youth if you are not living with a parent or legal guardian, and you have not graduated from high school, but you:

- Have run away from home.
- Have been thrown out of your home.
- Have been left on your own by a parent or guardian.
- Have moved in with friends or relatives because you don't have a place to stay.
- Are staying at a shelter, in a car, park, motel, train/bus station.

The Homeless Education Program

At Your School

What are my rights and services in the Homeless Education Program?

Your Local Liaison will:

- Provide you with information about your rights.
- Help you decide which school to attend.
- Inform you of your right to transportation and help you get transportation, if needed.
- Help you when you need an adult to sign forms for you, such as for absences.

The Local Liaison will also give you information about services, including:

- free/reduced meals
- uniforms and school supplies;
- programs for English language learners;
- special education services;
- career & technical education programs;
- gifted and talented services;
- before and after-school programs, as appropriate;
- fee waivers for selected school activities and graduation;
- referrals to low-cost or free health services; and
- preschool programs, if you have a young child.

What if I have a problem with my rights and services?

You have the right to discuss problems about services you receive with the Local Liaison. The school must continue to provide the services until your problem is solved. The Local Liaison must also explain the problem-solving process (dispute process). You should also receive information about low-cost or free legal aid, and other programs in the community to help you.

If you have additional questions that are not answered by the school, call the Illinois Homeless Education Program Hotline: 1-800-215-6379.



Through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, a federal law, you have rights to help you stay in school and succeed. As an unaccompanied youth, regardless of where you go to school, each school district has a local Homeless Education Liaison to help you.

As An Unaccompanied Youth, You Have Certain School Choices:

- You may continue to attend, or re-enroll at the public school you attended when you became homeless, or the last school you attended after you became homeless. (Both are the **school of origin**.)

Transportation to and from the school of origin will be provided by your school district.

- Or you may transfer to the school that serves the area where you are now staying (the **attendance area school**).

What if I have dropped out of high school?

If you have dropped out of school, you can re-enroll in public school and attend classes immediately—if you can complete the necessary courses by the time you turn 21.

Who can help me enroll in school?

You may have trouble enrolling in school by yourself. Your school district has a local **Homeless Education Program Liaison**, who is there to help you. You may enroll even if you do not have school and health records or an adult with you.

Homeless Education Program Liaison Contact Information:

Contact your School's
Student Services Department

More Help is Available

Who else can I talk to at school?

In addition to the Local Liaison, you can also get help from your school guidance counselor, the school social worker, the school nurse, or a teacher you trust.

Who can help me find a place to stay?

Illinois (statewide services):

- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Youth Services Project: 1-800-940-1119
- Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS):
1-888-816-3264, <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30768>

National Hotlines:

- National Runaway Switchboard Hotline (24 hours):
1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929), www.1800runaway.org
- Covenant House Runaway Hotline (24 hours):
1-800-999-9999, www.covenanthouse.org

Local Resources:

Contact your School's
Student Services Department



**OPENING DOORS:
HOMELESS
EDUCATION TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

Can be
downloaded from:
www.homelessed.net



If you need more information
about the McKinney-Vento
Homeless Education Program:

**ILLINOIS HOMELESS
EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

1-800-215-6379

www.isbe.net/homeless

*A project of the Illinois State Board of Education 100% funded by the
U.S. Department of Education under the McKinney-Vento Education
for Homeless Children and Youth Program.*