

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter



In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation



In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station



Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

*Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the
Federal McKinney-Vento Act.*

Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.
 - * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.



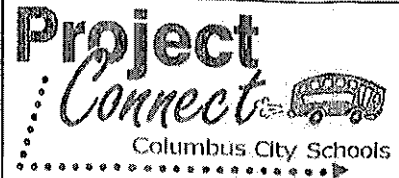
Columbus City Schools
Project Connect
Adult & Community Education
614 365-5140
www.cpsadulted.org

State Coordinator
Susannah Wayland
Ohio Department of Education
614 466-4161

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs,
contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145 * homeless@serve.org * www.serve.org/nche

Project Connect



What is Project Connect?

Project Connect ensures the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness as outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Project Connect staff determine a family's eligibility for services, and work with parents, schools, community agencies, and surrounding school districts to ensure that homeless students in grades Pre-K through 12 have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.

Program Services

Project Connect works with several agencies and surrounding school districts to provide assistance with:



- school selection and enrollment
- school transportation
- after-school tutoring and homework assistance at shelter agencies
- book bags and school supplies for students
- addressing barriers that affect school attendance and full participation
- obtaining necessary documents such as birth certificates, school records, and medical records
- dispute resolution

Who is Homeless?

The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence.

It includes those who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of home, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- living in motels or hotels.
- staying in trailer parks or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- abandoned in hospitals.
- awaiting foster care placement.
- living on their own, such as youth who have run away or have been put out of their home.



Adult and Community Education Columbus City Schools

Columbus City Schools Mission Statement: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.
ACE Vision Statement: The Department of Adult and Community Education of Columbus City Schools will provide the quality academic and occupational education that all students need for successful living in the 21st Century.



Phone: 614.365.5140 Fax: 614.365.6213

2323 Lexington Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211 www.ccsdoh.us/ace.aspx

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate based upon sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ancestry, familial status or military status with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.

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Program Services

Project Connect works with several agencies and surrounding school districts to provide assistance with:

- ◆ School selection and enrollment
- ◆ After school tutoring and homework assistance
- ◆ Book bags and school supplies for students
- ◆ Coordination of school transportation
- ◆ Assistance with obtaining necessary documents such as birth certificates, school records, and medical records
- ◆ Dispute Resolution

Who is Homeless?

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 - ◆ living in motels or hotels
 - ◆ staying in trailer parks or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
 - ◆ living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - ◆ abandoned
 - ◆ awaiting foster care placement
 - ◆ living on their own such as youth who have run away or have been put out of their home.

Advocacy

Advocacy and community awareness are pivotal components of Project Connect's work. Educating school personnel and others about the complex needs of families experiencing homelessness is essential to providing quality services.



Program Coordination

Project Connect staff determine a family's eligibility for services. The staff consults with parents, schools, community agencies, and surrounding school districts. Project Connect ensures that homeless students in grades Pre-K through 12 have full and equal opportunity to succeed, as specified in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



Project Connect



Columbus City Schools

Agency Collaborations

Amethyst
CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence
Child Development Council—Head Start
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
Hands On Central Ohio
Homeless Families Foundation
OSU-STAR Program
The Salvation Army
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio
YWCA Family Center

District Collaboration

Project Connect coordinates services within Columbus City Schools through the Department of Adult and Community Education and collaborates with all Franklin County School Districts.

Operating Funds

Operating funds are made available through a grant from the Ohio Department of Education and the Columbus City Schools Title I allocation.

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ACE is part of the
University System of Ohio.



Project
Connect
Columbus City Schools

Education of Children Experiencing Homelessness

Columbus City Schools

Mission Statement:

“Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.”

Dr. Dan Good,
Superintendent, CEO



Adult & Community Education
Columbus City Schools



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