

Results of Being Homeless

- Lack of self-esteem
- Poor school attendance
- Poor study habits
- Grades dropping dramatically
- Lack of participation in school activities
- Seclusion
- Lack of self-control (temper)
- Lack of self confidence
- School dropouts
- Emotional issues
- Shunning/shaming due to lack of adequate clothing and/or school supplies

The experiences children have in elementary and middle school affect their readiness and willingness to finish high school and any appropriate post-secondary education, impacting their futures.

Social skills and social networks developed in school provide important supports, both emotionally and academically, and may help the student finish school even when their lives are difficult.

Results of a Support System

- Improved grades
- Increase in school attendance
- Positive social interaction
- Positive self-esteem
- Desire to succeed
- Development of social skills
- Pride in themselves and their accomplishments
- A strong sense of community involvement for future endeavors
- A desire to "give back" to those less fortunate
- Ultimate Goal: GRADUATE

Education Rights under the McKinney-Vento Act

Students who are homeless have the right to:

- Attend school, no matter where or how long they live there.
- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest. The school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.
- Transportation to and from the school of origin.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records are still missing at this time.
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records.
- Access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services.
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited.
- Referrals to health services, housing, and other appropriate services.
- Access to early interventions such as Head Start, public preschool, and early interventions.
- Assist students with credit recovery from previous coursework completed.
- Attend school where all staff have received professional development in identifying, enrolling, and providing assistance with post-secondary education, stability and success for students experiencing homelessness.

Homeless Student Project

Ruritan National
2018-2019



There are homeless students in nearly every school system in America. In 2018, First Lady Linda Cox is asking Ruritan Clubs to reach out,

through the schools in their communities, to provide assistance to these students in the form of:

- **Clothing**
- **School Supplies**
- **Eyeglasses**
- **Medical assistance, and more**

McKinney-Vento Act (2001)

homeless@serve.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZj3hr0QZz>

Purpose of Project

To encourage homeless students to participate academically and socially in school in order to better their present and future lives and to relieve some of their stress. We want them to know that people within the community care about them. *Our goal is to see them succeed.*

Criteria for Homeless Children and Youth

A. Students who are displaced due to a breakdown of families and lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residences.

B. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons such as:

1. Children and youth who are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations, are living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is public or private and not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
4. Migratory children may qualify as homeless.

How Can My Ruritan Club Help?

Getting Started

Contact your local school board and set up an appointment with the designated School Attendance Coordinator and/or the appointed "Homeless Liaison." The purpose is to find out if there are programs already in place and if so, how can your club support their program.

You may also find that no support system is available and in this instance, you are free to create your own, based upon need.

After compiling all the information, report back to the club and begin by setting a goal and creating a strategy that the club can support. Check with the school to see what their students need. Again, meet with the Coordinator/Liaison and develop a system that is acceptable for both parties.

Expenditures for Homeless Students

- Items of clothing: clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes
- Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general educational programs
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks
- Medical and dental (monetary) needs
- Eyeglasses
- Stethoscope for nursing classes
- Pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, erasers, calculators, glue sticks, zippered binders, book bags, etc.
- Personal hygiene supplies such as towels, washcloths, soap, shampoo, deodorants, combs, nail clippers and files, shaving cream, toothbrushes and toothpaste, acne products, etc.

Donations of Time by Club Members

Any club members can donate time by:

- Helping pack bags for distribution
- Shopping for necessary supplies
- Tutoring after school
- Volunteering to read to grade-school children



The National Center for Homelessness Education (NCHE) supports educators, service providers, parents, community members, and others interested in the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

NCHE HELPLINE: 1-800-308-2145
<https://nche.ed.gov/>

