

# HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE TIPS FOR



# PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ACT IS A FEDERAL LAW THAT PROTECTS THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING (“EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS”). IT DEFINES “HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS” AS ANY STUDENT WHO LACKS A FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE.

IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN TEMPORARY HOUSING (I.E. SHELTER, MOTEL, CAMPGROUND, CAR, PARK, DOUBLED-UP WITH OTHER PEOPLE ETC.) YOUR CHILD MAY QUALIFY FOR CERTAIN RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS UNDER THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT.

## WHAT RIGHTS DOES MY CHILD HAVE?

- Your child can remain at the same school they went to when you were permanently housed (School of Origin), OR stay in their most recent school, OR transfer to the school of residence where you are temporarily housed.
- Right to immediate enrollment in school, even if some enrollment documents are missing.
- Transportation assistance to and from school if requested and mileage requirements are met.
- Access to the school breakfast/lunch program and educational services according to your child's needs.
- Assistance from the homeless liaison at your child's school with completing the Student Housing Questionnaire (SHQ) and right to request support services.

## WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK THE SCHOOL?

- Can I speak with the Designated School Site Homeless Liaison?
- What forms of transportation assistance are available?
- What are the eligibility requirements to qualify for transportation assistance?
- What services can we receive by filling out the housing questionnaire?
- Will my child's status remain confidential?



FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT, PLEASE CONTACT THE HOMELESS EDUCATION OFFICE AT (213) 202-7581