

Education of Homeless Children

IDENTIFICATION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Port Washington Union Free School District shall determine whether there are homeless students within the Port Washington School District. It shall do so by all means available, including, but not limited to contacting:

- Nassau County Department of Social Services
- Any local runaway and homeless youth shelter (as listed at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/Youth/rhydirectory.asp#n>)
- Any other shelters located in the district.

The district will have an enrollment form that asks for a description of the current living arrangements of the child or youth in order to determine whether the child or youth meets the definition of a homeless child under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (42 USC §11434a [2]) ("McKinney-Vento") and New York Education Law §3209(1) (a). This form will be distributed to every student who registers for school and will also be available in all school buildings for use by the school guidance and medical staff.

DEFINITION OF HOMELESS CHILD AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

Pursuant to McKinney- Vento 42 USC §11434a [2] and Education Law §3209(1) (a), a homeless child is defined as a child who does not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime location is in a public or private shelter designated to provide temporary living accommodations, or a place not designed for, or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings. This definition includes a child who is:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason (sometimes referred to as double-up);
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings;
- abandoned in hospitals; or
- a migratory child who qualifies as homeless because he or she is living in circumstances described above.

In addition, an unaccompanied youth is a homeless child for whom no parent or person in parental relation is available (8 NYCRR §100.2[x] [1] [vi]).

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