

CHILDREN/YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program was established to make sure homeless youth have access to a free and appropriate public education while removing barriers that homeless children face. Its goal is to have the educational process continue as uninterrupted as possible while the children are in homeless situations.

Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act¹⁰ defines “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes –

- Children and youths who are:
 - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”);
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
 - abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied homeless youth including any child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This includes youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or guardians, or separated from their parents for any other reason.

If you are aware of any children in the school district who may possibly fit the above criteria, please contact a school principal or the school district’s homeless liaison, Amy Wanchisn, at 724-981-8750, ext. 6015 or amy_wanchisn@hermitage.k12.pa.us. Services and support are available for these students.

Homeless Liaison

Mrs. Amy Wanchisn
724-981-8750, ext. 6015
amy_wanchisn@hermitage.k12.pa.us

See HSD website for “Board policy #251: Homeless students” at www.hermitage.k12.pa.us

Click “Offices”: “Central Admin”: “School Board Policies”