

Who Do You Call If You Have A Question?

Tamie Williams
McKinney-Vento Liaison
Tone Resource Center
3111 South 43rd St.
Tacoma, WA 98409
Phone: 253.571.1875
Fax: 253.571.1928

Or

Melinda Dyer
Program Supervisor, OSPI
Education of Homeless
Children and Youth
Phone: 360.725.6050

Note to High School Students

If you are a high school student living away from your parents and do not have permanent housing (maybe you are staying in a shelter or with friends/relatives), these same rights apply to you. For assistance, call **Susan Paredes**, High School McKinney-Vento Liaison—571-1814 or 306-3922



Tacoma School District complies with all federal laws and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital or veteran status or disability. The district also prohibits the use of racial, ethnic, and/or sexual slurs, including sexual harassment. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular activities. Inquiries regarding the application of the above references should be directed to Equity and Diversity, P.O. Box 1357, Tacoma, WA 98401-1357, telephone 253.571.1292. Inquiries regarding the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (concerning disabilities) should be directed to the Director, Comprehensive Guidance Programs, P.O. Box 1357, Tacoma, WA 98401-1357, telephone 253.571.1182.



Homeless Resources

United Way—211
Associated Ministries—682-3401
Community Voice Mail—571-5960
Dental Hot Line—798-6044
Domestic Violence Helpline—798-4166
Community Health Care—597-4550
Crisis Helpline—1-800-576-7764
Energy Assistance—572-5557
Healthcare for the Homeless—627-5445
Homeless Childcare—572-3213
Family Support Centers—798-6403
TANF/DSHS—476-7000
Pierce Transit—581-8000
South Sound Outreach—593-2111
Public Health Information—798-2987
Tacoma Housing Authority—207-4400
Tacoma Schools Information—571-1000



- *In transition?*
- *Homeless?*
- *Living in a shelter or temporary housing with school-age children?*
- *A youth with no place to live?*

You Have Rights in Washington



If you are the parent or guardian of a school-age child and are without permanent housing, your child has the right to go to school. (McKinney-Vento Act, rev. 01/2002).

Homeless: What Does It Mean?

- Someone who is staying at a temporary living place, such as a shelter or hotel.
- A youth not living with a parent or guardian.
- Someone who is spending nights in a place not meant for sleeping (like a car or a condemned building).
- Someone who doesn't have a "fixed, regular or adequate place to live," including crowding too many people into one apartment or temporarily staying with friends or family due to financial hardship.

What School Should You Choose?

If you don't know where you are going to live next, keeping your child in the same school for the school year may be the best thing you can do for your child's education and emotional security. You have two choices based on what is in the student's best interest:

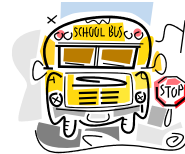
- Keep your child in the school your child was attending before you lost your housing (school of origin). If you choose to keep your child in the same school, your child may continue at that school for as long as you are homeless or until the end of the school year.
- Enroll your child in the school nearest the shelter or temporary place where you are currently staying.
- If the school disagrees with your enrollment request, they must notify you in writing and include the dispute resolution process.

Tips for dealing with the School

Ask to speak to the building's McKinney-Vento Liaison for assistance. Inform the Liaison that you are in a temporary living situation. The Liaison will be able to help you enroll, determine transportation needs, offer resources and answer any questions you might have. Remember—if your student is remaining in the school of origin, you are not required to obtain an out-of-district release if you are residing outside Tacoma School District boundaries.

Can My Child Ride the School Bus?

- Contact the school's McKinney-Vento Liaison or the Busing Coordinator.
- Call 253.571.1875 (Tone Resource Center) for assistance with transportation if your child's school is unable to arrange for busing.



What Records Does the School Need About My Child?

- School records
- Birth certificate
- Immunization records

If you are sending your child to a new school, the school must immediately enroll your child even if you can't produce the records they need right away. They will assist you to obtain needed records. Proof of residency is not required for enrollment of homeless children. However, a school can require you to provide an address or some way to contact you.



Your Right to be Treated Fairly

Your child can participate in all the same school activities as other children:

- Before and after school programs
- Counseling
- Free school breakfast and lunch
- Special Education, Bilingual, Vocational, Gifted programs
- School supplies
- Title I/LAP
- The public schools must evaluate your child if he/she has a disability.

If you believe the educational rights of your child have been violated or your child has been discriminated against, you can file a complaint at the school. A good place to look for assistance is to talk with the school district's McKinney-Vento Liaison, Tamie Williams, Tone Resource Center, 571-1875.

Your Responsibilities

- During the school year your child should be going to school every day.
- If you are transferring your child, you must enroll your child in the school right away.
- You must immediately ask the school for transportation if you need it.
- Ask if special tutoring or counseling is available to help make up for lost school time.
- You should meet with your child's teacher regularly to make sure your child is getting every appropriate program.

