

BCS Homeless Education Program

Buford City Schools allows access to a free, appropriate public education for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is the federal law that governs the educational rights of children and youth in homeless situations. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Our identified homeless liaison works with the local schools, assisting to assure identified homeless children and youth receive timely enrollment, transportation, education related support services (ERSS), and community resource information

The primary goal of the Homeless Liaison is to eliminate barriers to school enrollment and promote academic success for all students. In addition to providing support to local schools, the homeless liaison serves as the link between families and community resources. The Homeless liaison is responsible for providing on-going training to families, schools and community resources in an effort to promote awareness, education and most of all sensitivity to the needs of families/students experiencing homelessness

If you and your child live in a shelter or motel; share housing because you lost your housing or cannot afford housing; live in a campground, car, abandoned building, or other inadequate shelter; do not have a permanent address and/or permanent housing, or are an unaccompanied minor; are temporarily in foster care; or live on the street.

Your child has the right to immediately enroll in and attend school without having health and school records available; enroll in the school serving the address where you are living temporarily, or in the school attended when permanently housed, whichever is feasible and in your child's best interest; receive transportation to and from school when feasible; participate in school-related activities and receive other services, including free school meals; and; utilize the dispute resolution process if you have a grievance.



Buford City Schools Homeless Liaison: Sarah E. B. McIlvenna, LMSW

Email: sarah.mcilvenna@bufordcityschools.org Call: 770.945.5035

The Homeless Liaison is charged with enforcing state and federal protections for homeless students and may be contacted with issues regarding enrolling or maintaining attendance for students experiencing homelessness. The Liaison is responsible for: identification of homeless children and youth (by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies); facilitate enrollment and participation to obtain equal opportunity and success in school; ensure that educational services for which such families are eligible (including Head Start). The parents and guardians of homeless children and youth get informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; outreach - public notices of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated; enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance; assist the unaccompanied youth with enrollment, obtaining records, and information regarding their rights under the law.

The following are local community resources you may contact as needed: *This list is for your consideration and information; it is not endorsed by BCS. It is not a complete list, so please use other sources as well. Any fees incurred are the responsibility of the parent/guardian and/or student.*

United Way 211 or 404.614.1027
Georgia Helpline 1.800.338.6745
Gwinnett Helpline 770.995.3339
North Gwinnett Cooperative (Co-op) Ministries 770.271.9735
St. Vincent de Paul 770.458.9607
Hope and Life Food Pantry 770.979.1595
Bread of Life (Food) 770.51.0492
Partnership for Community Action 770.564.1702
Partnership Against Domestic Violence 770.963.9799
Travelers Aid of Metro Atlanta 404.817.7070
Action Ministries 404.881.1991
Salt Light Center/Family Promise of Gwinnett 678.376.8950
The IMPACT! Group 678.808.4477
Rainbow Village 770.497.1888
Salvation Army Home Sweet Home Program 770.724.1661
Buford Housing Authority 770.945.5212
Lawrenceville Housing Authority 770.963.4900
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
404.327.7912
Buford Health Center 770.614.2401
Dept. of Family & Children's Services:
 Lawrenceville Office 678.518.5500
 Norcross Office 770.638.5790
www.compass.ga.gov *To apply for Food Stamps, Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, and Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF).*
Georgia Department of Education Homeless Education Program Consultant
Erica Glenn 678.316.5991

For additional information on the educational rights of homeless children and youth, you may visit these recommended sites:

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

P.O. Box 26274
Minneapolis, MN 55426
Ph: (866) 862-2562
F: (763) 545-9499
<http://www.naehcy.org>

National Center for Homeless Education at Serve

P.O.Box 5367
Greensboro, NC 27435
Phone: 800-755-3277
<http://www.serve.org/nche>

National Coalition for the Homeless

22901 P Street NW
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202-462-4822
Fax: 202-462-4823
<mailto:info@nationalhomeless.org>
<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

918 F Street NW, #412
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 202-638-2523
Fax: 202-628-2737
<mailto:HN0749@handset.org>
<http://www.nichp.org>

National Alliance to End Homelessness

1518 K. Street NW, #206
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-638-1526
<mailto:naeh@ari.net>
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/>

