

## Resources for Families

**Gwinnett Helpline** 770-995-3339  
*For resource information*

### COMMUNITY AGENCIES

*For limited assistance with rent, emergency housing, utility bills, clothing, and food*

#### Cooperative (Co-op) Ministries

**Duluth** 770-623-9563  
**Lawrenceville** 770-339-7887  
**Lilburn** 770-931-8333  
**Neighborhood (Norcross)** 770-263-8268  
**North Gwinnett** 770-271-9793  
**Southeast** 770-985-5229

**St. Vincent de Paul** 770-458-9607

### HOUSING RESOURCES

*Short-term, long-term, and emergency options*

**HOPE Atlanta/Action Min.** 404-817-7070

**HomeTown Studios** 404-587-5004

**Family Promise of Gwinnett** 678-786-1359

**Rainbow Village** 770-497-1888

**Salvation Army's Home Sweet Home Program** 770-724-1661

**HomeFirst Gwinnett/ Project Reset** 770-847-6765

**Home of Hope at Gwinnett Children's Shelter** 678-546-8770

**Project Community Connections, Inc.** 404-215-9991

*Current July, 2021*

**Buford Housing Auth.** 770-945-5212

**Lawrenceville Housing Auth.** 770-963-4900

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs** 404-327-7912/  
404-679-4940  
[www.dca.ga.gov](http://www.dca.ga.gov)

### HELP FOR HOMELESS TEENS

**Positive Impact/Safe Place** 404-513-9138

### HELP WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Partnership Against Domestic Violence** 770-963-9799

### MEDICAL RESOURCES

**Buford Health Ctr.** 770-614-2401  
**Lawrenceville Health Ctr.** 770-339-4283  
**Norcross Health Ctr.** 770-638-5700  
**Lilburn WIC Clinic** 678-924-1546  
**Good Samaritan Health Clinic** 877-406-6048  
**Four Corners Primary Care** 770-806-2928  
**Good Samaritan Clinic** 678-280-6630  
**Hebron Community Clinic** 770-277-4675

**Gwinnett County DFCS** 678-518-5500  
*For food stamps, Medicaid, Peach Care for Kids, & Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*

**Gwinnett County Public Schools  
Homeless Education Social Worker**  
Tejanae Caldwell-Briscoe  
678-301-7270

**Georgia Department of Education  
Homeless Ed. Grants Consultant**  
Whittney Mitchell  
678- 621-3611

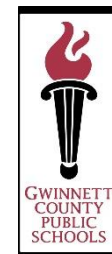
Gwinnett County Public Schools does not endorse any of the above agencies. This list is for informational purposes only. All fees incurred are the responsibility of the parent/guardian/student. This is not a complete list of resources in Gwinnett County or metro Atlanta. Please seek other sources of information for additional resources.

# Education of Homeless Children & Youth

## A Guide for Parents and Guardians



**GWINNETT COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
437 Old Peachtree Rd., NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-7270



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a law passed in 1987 and re-authorized in 2015 under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The act ensures that homeless students and unaccompanied homeless youth are successful in school by removing barriers to access.

### How does the law define homelessness?

An individual is homeless if he or she lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The definition of homelessness includes those living in shelters, motels, campgrounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or other inadequate shelter. The law also includes situations in which an individual shares the housing of relatives or others because he or she has lost housing or cannot afford housing due to economic hardship, eviction, domestic violence, house fire, natural disaster, or a similar reason.

### What are my student's rights under the McKinney-Vento Act?

A student considered homeless under the law has the right to immediate school enrollment even if health & school records are not available. The student may attend either the school of origin (the school most recently attended) OR the school in the attendance zone where the family resides, and may receive transportation to the school of origin when feasible and in the best interest of the child. The student also has the right to comparable services (the same services provided to other students) including transportation, educational services, supplemental services, extra-curricular activities, and free meals through School Nutrition.



### Will school personnel treat my child differently if he/she is homeless?

Homeless students and unaccompanied homeless youth may not be stigmatized by school personnel.

### If my child and I become homeless during the school year, what should I do?

Ask to speak to your child's Counselor or School Social Worker. You will be offered a Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ) to complete.

### Who can I call if I need assistance?

Contact the GCPS Homeless Liaison or the School Social Worker who serves your child's school.

### Can my child stay at his/her school if we become homeless and have to move out of the school zone?

If a parent/guardian of a homeless student or an unaccompanied homeless youth requests continued enrollment in the school the student has most recently attended (school of origin), the student may continue to attend that school if feasible and in the best interest of the student. If the request for school of origin enrollment is denied by the Homeless Liaison, a written explanation will be provided to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian may dispute the decision.



### How does my child receive transportation to his/her school of origin?

If you are living outside the attendance zone for the school of origin, you will need to complete an HEP Transportation Request at your school. If the request is deemed feasible and in the best interest of the student, it will be approved. It may take up to 10 school days for routing to take place. A representative from the transportation department will call you prior to the start of transportation. Gas cards may be available to help you transport your child to school temporarily while you await the start of bus transportation.

### If I don't agree with a school enrollment or transportation decision, how do I file a dispute?

**Step 1:** The parent/guardian or unaccompanied homeless youth must respond in writing to both the Homeless Liaison and the GCPS Executive Director of Student Services within five days of receiving the written decision to deny enrollment. Failure to appeal in writing within five days will be considered acceptance of the decision. Information in the written request for resolution must be consistent with the information originally presented to the enrolling school.

**Step 2:** The GCPS Executive Director of Student Services will make a final school system determination and will respond in writing to the parent/guardian.

**Step 3:** If the parent/guardian or unaccompanied homeless youth does not agree with the decision of the GCPS Executive Director of Student Services he/she must immediately appeal to the Georgia Department of Education for a final determination. Contact Whitney Mitchell, Homeless Education Program Consultant, at 678-621-3611.