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If you have questions about this publication, or for additional copies, contact:
The Department of Education, Bureau of Community and Student Services
5th floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333,
Voice Telephone: (717) 783-6466, Text Telephone TTY: (717) 783-8445, Fax: (717) 783-4392

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Complaints regarding discrimination in schools:
Human Relations Representative, Intake Division
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
Harrisburg Regional Office: (717) 787-9784; Pittsburgh Regional Office: (412) 565-5395;
Philadelphia Regional Office: (215) 560-2496

Complaints against a Pennsylvania Department of Education employee:
Pennsylvania Department of Education, Equal Employment Opportunity Representative
Bureau of Human Resources
11th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice Telephone: (717) 787-4417, Text Telephone TTY: (717) 783-8445, Fax: (717) 783-9348

Information on accommodations within the Department of Education for persons with disabilities:
Pennsylvania Department of Education, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator
Bureau of Management Services
15th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice Telephone: (717) 783-9791, Text Telephone TTY: (717) 783-8445, Fax: (717) 772-2317

General questions regarding educational law or issues:
Pennsylvania Department of Education
School Services Unit Director
5th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice Telephone: (717) 783-3750, Text Telephone TTY: (717) 783-8445, Fax: (717) 783-6802

If you have questions about this updated statement, please call:
The Bureau of Human Resources
(717) 787-4417.

This document was printed with 100 percent federal funding under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001. This edition printed in 2009.
On July 22, 1987, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act became law. This was the first comprehensive federal law dealing with the problems of homelessness in America.

As a first step in 1988, the Pennsylvania Department of Education established the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. This program has been responsible for assessing Pennsylvania’s homeless children population, developing the appropriate responses and establishing McKinney-Vento Homeless sites.

Some of the main objectives of the Homeless Children’s Initiative are to inform local school districts of their responsibilities to homeless children and youth, to increase awareness about the needs of homeless children, reveal and overcome possible educational barriers, explain current legislation and policies, and provide practical tips for working with homeless children.

This booklet is a brief overview of some important issues surrounding the assistance of homeless children - such as who they are, how they are affected and what choices they have available to them. The entire booklet can be easily read in a few minutes. By doing so, you can be in a better position to help a child who has become homeless.
Every school district must have a person in charge of making sure students who are homeless can enroll and succeed in school. The law calls that person the “Liaison.” The District Homeless Liaison can support and help students in homeless situations in many ways. They must:

1. Make sure students are enrolled in school immediately, even if they do not have the papers they would normally need;

2. Help families and youth get immunizations, immunization records or other medical records, if a student needs them;

3. Tell parents and youth about all transportation services and help set up transportation;

4. Make sure students receive all of the school services they require;

5. Tell parents and guardians about all of the programs and services the school has for their children.

To find out who your District Homeless Liaison is, call your superintendent or (717) 783-6468; (717) 783-6466; or (717) 763-1661, ext. 156 or visit http://homeless.center-school.org to order a directory listing (updated annually).

A main goal of the Homeless Children’s Initiative is “to provide activities and services to homeless children, including pre-school-aged homeless children and youth, that enable such children and youth to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school, or, if appropriate, in preschool programs.”

McKinney-Vento Homeless Act - Public Law 107-110
Subtitle B - Education for Homeless Children & Youths
Sec. 722(d)(2)
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Who Are the Homeless?

Homeless children may be found in these places or situations:

- Public or private shelters;

- Public or private places not designated for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations such as vehicles, parks, motels, campgrounds, etc.;

- Living with a parent in a domestic violence shelter;

- Individuals and/or families living with relatives or friends due to lack of housing;

- Living in transitional housing programs;

- Runaway children (under 18 years of age) and children and youth who have been abandoned or forced out of home by parents or other caretakers. These children may be in temporary shelters awaiting assistance from social service agencies, or may live alone on the street or move from place to place among family members, friends or acquaintances.

- Children of migrant families who lack adequate housing; or

- Children abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care.
“Education for Homeless Children and Youth”
A Summary of Federal and State Policies

What is a Basic Educational Circular (BEC)?
Basic Education Circulars (BECs) are issued by the Secretary of Education or the Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education. BECs are statements of Pennsylvania Department of Education policy. They provide guidance and direction to local administrators.

Which BEC covers homelessness?

What is the name of the federal homeless act?
The federal law is now called McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 (Subtitle B) - Education for Homeless Children and Youths (Sections 721-726).

What is the key mandate of the law?
To ensure that homeless children and youth have access to free appropriate public education on an equal basis with other children.

What choice of schools do homeless students have?
The local educational agency serving each child or youth to be assisted under this subtitle shall, according to the child’s or youth’s best interest:

“(i) continue the child’s or youth’s education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness-
“(I) in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year;
(II) for the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
(ii) enroll the child or youth in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.” (source: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Reauthorized January 2002)

What is the “School of Origin”?  
Law defines “School of Origin” as the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parent(s) or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

Is residency required for homeless students?  
When determining residence, the reasons for equating “residence” and “domicile” (home) do not apply where homeless children are concerned. They are presently unable to establish “homes” on a permanent basis.

Can immunization verification be expedited?  
Department of Health regulations establish oral confirmation between professionals as sufficient basis to enroll a student (written confirmation to follow within 30 days). BEC 42 U.S.C. §11431 explains this regulation.

What if a school placement dispute occurs?  
If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school--

“(i) the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;

(ii) the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision;

(iii) the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as described in paragraph (1)(C) as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute…” (source: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Reauthorized January 2002)
What does “Best Interest” mean?
“...the local educational agency shall—

(i) to the extent feasible, keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian;

(ii) provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal under subparagraph (E), to the homeless child’s or youth’s parent or guardian, if the local educational agency sends such child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian; and

(iii) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the homeless liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) assists in placement or enrollment decisions under this subparagraph, considers the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal…” (source: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Reauthorized January 2002)

Can there be enrollment delays?
“(i) The school selected in accordance with this paragraph shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.

(ii) The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and other records.” (source: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Reauthorized January 2002)

(The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” are defined to include attending classes and participating fully in school activities [Sec. 725(3)].)
Basic Education Circulars
Other BECs that involve Homeless Students

• BEC 24 P.S.§5-503 (Admission to Kindergarten and Beginners) Acceptable Evidence of Pupil Age for School Admission
  - Birth certificate is NOT the only acceptable proof of age.
  - Birth certificate is not mandated by law as a requirement for school admission.
  - Other options include baptismal certificate, transcript of record of baptism, notarized parent statement, transcript of birth certificate or transcript of birth.

• BEC 24 P.S.§13-1303a School Immunization Requirements
  - Schools can admit students with at least one each of six prescribed antigens.
  - Students have up to eight months to complete remaining doses.

• BEC 24 P.S.§1301-1306 Enrollment of Students
  Educational agencies shall ensure that each homeless child has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. Homeless students may reside in shelters, hotels, motels, cars, tents or be temporarily doubled-up with a resident family because of lack of housing. In the case of homeless students, traditional concepts of “residence” and “domicile” do not apply. Homeless children and youth lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Included within the definition of homeless children and youth are those who are “awaiting foster care placement” and “unaccompanied homeless youth.”
Unaccompanied homeless youth may enroll without documents and without the help of an adult. Unaccompanied homeless youth includes any child who is “not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.” Falling within this definition are students who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, or been abandoned or separated from their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Youth awaiting foster care placement include those who are placed in emergency, interim or respite foster care; kinship care; evaluation or diagnostic centers or placements for the sole purpose of evaluation. When necessary, local school officials should consult with their county children and youth agencies to determine if a child meets the definition of “awaiting foster care placement,” including, on a case-by-case basis, whether a child who does not clearly fall into one of these categories is nevertheless a child “awaiting foster care placement.”

Homeless youth are entitled to immediate enrollments and their families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment. These students should be enrolled without delay, in the district where they are presently residing, or continue their education in the district of prior attendance. See the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq. and the BEC 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq. Education for Homeless Youth for more details.
Impact of Homelessness Upon a Child’s Education

Most notably, homelessness causes a disruption in a child’s education. The data from the 2000 statewide shelter census reveals that over a period of one year, about 60% of homeless children residing in a shelter enrolled in a new school. The transfer and enrollment process may occur three to five times in a year. **The impact of family mobility upon education is disruption and is the greatest barrier to school success.**

Changing schools means adapting to new teachers, schedules, friends and accompanying details. Performance may slip until the child adapts to new settings.

The attention of the child’s caretaker may center on food, clothing, shelter and safety to the exclusion of education. This may add to the disruption of the child’s education.

Like any other child experiencing disruption in their life, homeless children need support, help with adjusting to new teaching styles, assignments and some basic things like fees for class trips, etc.

**Things you can do:**

As an educator you can make a difference in the success of these children. They may need an advocate in school. Recognize the importance of a caring environment as the foundation for academic success. Strengthen positive connections with families and form partnerships with others to develop and implement programs that will nurture and reinforce resiliency in children. Learn how Title I and other federal prevention funds can be utilized to serve homeless children. Take every opportunity to move from isolated programs to coordinating services for homeless children.
Research studies show that when schools are places where students routinely receive respect and support, the students’ motivation to learn is improved. To counter the many risk factors in the lives of homeless children, schools need to enhance protective factors that promote positive behavior, health, well-being and personal success. A child’s resilience is fostered by building enough protective factors to offset the impact of a stressful life. The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Resiliency/Wellness Approach provides a strengths-based perspective to address personal (self-motivation, humor, flexibility, creativity, perseverance and love of learning) and environmental protective factors (clear and consistent boundaries, high expectations, meaningful student engagement, skills for life, unconditional support, connectiveness and bonding) which support positive human development. This approach facilitates a holistic viewpoint that can successfully address the social, emotional, academic and physical needs of homeless youth.

The resiliency/wellness approach goes hand in hand with the Standards-Aligned System as the academic framework to be used in all Pennsylvania public schools. Over the past two decades, there have been many studies that have followed the lives of children in “at-risk” situations from their school years on through young adulthood. The findings show that in spite of environment or family background challenges, many youth were able to positively adapt and/or “bounce back.” The Resiliency/Wellness Approach promotes prevention efforts in schools to foster positive learning environments and strong collaborations across families, schools and community partners.

Schools can promote protective factors by helping children and their families link with programs and activities that offer opportunities to strengthen existing relationships and create new ones. School-based parenting and enrichment workshops can help parents build stronger bonds with their children and the school community. Educators should set clear standards for attendance, behavior and satisfactory performance. These expectations can serve as a positive structure to a mobile family. When schools provide caring relationships, maintain high expectations, and provide opportunities for participation in school activities, they can serve as a “protective shield” for students. The skills learned and the recognition received in these activities are keys for growth and a sense of well-being.

For more information on the Resiliency/Wellness Approach and the Standards-Aligned System, visit www.pde.state.pa.us or contact the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Community and Student Services at 717-783-3755.
The following section lists the barriers identified by the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program and briefly explains each barrier and offers some solutions. Policies, procedures and strategies are only as effective as our ability to use them within the daily activities of schools and shelters. Common information must be shared by all players, at all levels — from the superintendent down to the admitting secretary and out into the shelters and key community agencies.

HOMLESS STUDENT PLAN OUTLINES TOP 10 BARRIERS

1. Residency and Guardianship Requirements and Other School Enrollment and Attendance Laws and Regulations

Pennsylvania’s Public School Code of 1949, the State Board of Education attendance regulations and the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act ensure Pennsylvania’s homeless children access to free education. Local school districts must determine how their policies and procedures may conflict and make necessary adjustments to decrease barriers to school access. The PAHCI Regional and Site Coordinators are available for assistance in revising and updating policies and procedures related to homeless students – see the contact listing and other resources at the end of this booklet. You can find examples on several of the region’s web pages of sample policies and procedures for working effectively with homeless youth.

2. Lack of Coordination, Collaboration and Cooperation

In some Pennsylvania communities, providers and school district administrators express frustration with a lack of communication, cooperation and follow-up, which results in delays, an inability to track homeless students, overlapping services, and ultimately, underserved and unserved students. The PAHCI Regional and Site Coordinators are available to assist you in working through these situations and to provide contact information for available agencies and resources to help you effectively serve homeless students and their families.
3. Lack of Program Continuity and Delays in Educational Evaluation/Placement

Some students have attended five or more different schools in a given year. Frequent absenteeism is common. This irregular school attendance hampers the child’s educational progress and may interrupt important assessment procedures necessary for a student receiving special or supportive educational programs. It may prevent the student from having the opportunity to meet the same challenging, local and state performance standards all students are expected to meet. For further information and resources regarding truancy prevention, visit the online Pennsylvania Truancy Toolkit at www.patrucytoolkit.info. You can contact the PAHCI Regional and Site Coordinators to explore options to ensure appropriate educational services and programs are provided for homeless youth.

4. Lack of Transportation to Stay in the School of Origin

The State and its Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. If the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the LEA in which the school of origin is located, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation. If the homeless student moves to an area served by another LEA, though continuing his or her education at the school of origin, the LEA of origin and the LEA in which the student is living must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin. If the LEAs cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally. For more information about addressing transportation barriers, visit http://homeless.center-school.org to request the publication entitled “Child Accounting Guidelines” which outlines the rights/responsibilities related to transportation of homeless students, but also describes potential situations and solutions to transportation questions. The PAHCI Regional and Site Coordinators can also help you identify solutions to transportation issues related to homeless youth. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Division of Subsidy Data & Administration at 717-787-3195 can assist in determining effective transportation strategies.
5. Delays in Academic and Health Records

Families experiencing a crisis which results in a loss of home and belongings, and/or youth living on their own or estranged from their homes, often are unable to produce school records. When the response for records is slow or delayed, it results in a barrier for the homeless student and school staff who need to make decisions based on known information. This is especially true for students with special needs. Faxing has facilitated the process, along with telephoning health officials to verify immunization records. Contact the PAHCI Regional or Site Coordinator for your area if there are any questions or concerns related to the immediate enrollment of homeless students and/or accessing academic/health records to facilitate that enrollment.

6. Lack of Awareness Among School Personnel of the Pervasiveness of Homelessness

Educators need more information about the numbers of homeless children on their rolls, and how the conditions of homelessness affect their ability to learn, socialize and cope with everyday circumstances. Because of ongoing changes in school district personnel, there is a need for continuous education to further sensitize staff to the multiple aspects of the homeless problem. School personnel must have a common understanding of the relationship between homelessness and the impact of risk factors on the child’s education in order to begin the process of nurturing resiliency and building more effective classroom environments for all children. Teachers also need to be encouraged to attend in-services on homelessness when available. Various professional development opportunities are provided on the local, regional and state level by the network of PAHCI Regional and Site Coordinators and other statewide entities. For instance, an annual conference entitled “Meeting the Challenge: Educating Homeless Children in Pennsylvania,” is made available to both school and community partners working with or on behalf of homeless youth. For further information about upcoming training events, contact the Regional or Site Coordinator for your area, the Pennsylvania Department of Education web site at www.pde.state.pa.us/homeless or the Center for Schools and Communities web site at http://homeless.center-school.org.

7. Inadequate Parental Response to their Children’s Needs

Parents and guardians who are homeless often lack adequate, current information regarding the rights of their children to attend school. In addition, caretakers who are uncertain about tomorrow and concerned about basic needs — food, shelter — often do not view the education of their children as a priority. Parents need to know what actions they should take, be given the highest quality of support, and be given the encouragement and guidance needed to enroll and maintain their children in school.
8. The Social Stigma Associated with Homelessness

Homeless students and their families may be reluctant to share information about their life situation. Parents may be embarrassed and fearful of reactions from school officials if their homelessness status were discovered. These things don’t have to occur, though, if the lines of communication are open with shelters, agencies, schools and local McKinney-Vento homeless sites. With proper staff training, all families can be welcomed into schools and shelters in a respectful manner. Schools and shelters, therefore, can help families to overcome the temporary disruption in their lives.

9. Transiency Among Families with Preschoolers Hinders Access to Service

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Act encourages the extension of program services to preschool age homeless children by clarifying activities that can be funded for these children. Local School District Homeless Liaisons are required to link eligible homeless preschoolers with educational programs such as Head Start, Even Start and other local preschool programs. But many of the families being served are living in shelters and motels and move frequently, often out of the geographical area that the program serves. Efforts need to be taken not only to identify and enroll homeless preschoolers, but to support the continuity of their early education experience amidst a life of transiency.

10. Lack of Access and Knowledge of Available Services for Unsheltered, Runaway and Chronically Homeless

There is a wide variety in terms of family background and makeup of homeless individuals. Many are experiencing the fears and stresses of homelessness for the first time, often having the homelessness come quickly and unexpectedly. In certain areas of the Commonwealth, a lack of knowledge of services bars the family from finding shelter, safety and peace of mind. Others, like runaway youth, are sometimes unwanted and find it hard to fit in anywhere, especially if no local runaway program is in operation. There are also homeless families who are chronically homeless and have used the “system,” often burning the bridges that could have helped them, and the children in these families may require assistance. Assistance with these situations and determining local available resources can be secured by contacting your area’s Regional or Site Coordinator listed at the back of this publication.
Team Collaboration and Cooperation

Administrators Can Help Homeless Students
Know the rights of homeless children and youth and help the school board and local community to become more sensitive to the condition of homelessness.

Principals Can Help Homeless Students
Establish a true **WELCOME** to the school. Introduce the family and child to teachers, counselors and other staff, and give a tour of the school. Set the tone for further parent involvement in the school. Train all staff to be aware of the federal law and state policies.

Secretaries Can Help Homeless Students
When the parents are in the school for enrollment purposes, do not bring attention to their homeless condition. Assist parents in filling out forms. Be sensitive that some may lack the necessary literacy skills.

Teachers Can Help Homeless Students
Discuss privately with the student what accommodations exist for doing homework and make necessary arrangements or adjustments. Tutoring can also provide an opportunity for supportive counseling. Provide or arrange for needed school supplies without bringing the needs to the attention of the class.

Counselors Can Help Homeless Students
Know the local community resources so you are in a position to make referrals for the family in areas like housing, food, clothing and counseling.
School Nurses Can Help Homeless Students
Contact the previous school to obtain immunization records and health records. Get verification by phone to expedite matters. Share information with staff members.

Social Workers/Home School Visitors Can Help Homeless Students
Make standard forms and information available about key school programs at each shelter. This includes materials on the school calendar, lunch and breakfast programs and admission/withdrawal.

Transportation Staff Can Help Homeless Students
Arrange for children to be able to attend the school of origin if in the student’s best interest. Arrange bus stops to pick up students at the shelter first and drop them off last to ease the embarrassment associated with living at the shelter.

Shelter Personnel Can Help Homeless Students
Be aware of school happenings and help parents and children to be able to participate in school functions.
10 Things a Principal Can Do to Help Homeless Students

1. Be familiar with the federal homeless law that requires that students have a choice of schools and do not need to prove residency.

2. Inform the staff, and especially office personnel, about the guidelines for transfer and registration of homeless children.

3. Distribute information to teachers and office staff and arrange for in-service for school staff on the subject of homeless students.

4. Know the Basic Education Circulars relating to homeless children and youth and be in position to explain them as needed to other school staff.

5. Study and develop guidelines for the sensitive issue of abuse and domestic violence. (Refer to BEC 22 PA Code §12.31 “Access to Student Records and Enrollment Information.”)

6. Contact the parent and shelter personnel if a child is absent for three or more days to find out if assistance is needed.

7. Alert Student Assistance Program (SAP) members of any serious conditions of the student. Teamwork and sharing of information are very important, especially if the child’s stay in school is short.

8. Ensure that the children can participate in field trips, schoolwide activities and class projects even if they do not have transportation or necessary fees.

9. Put up a “Right to Education” poster for both the faculty and public to see.

10. A wealth of information and resources is available. Visit www.pde.state.pa.us/homeless or http://homeless.center-school.org for further information and resources.
Ideas for Helping Homeless Children

• Assist in ensuring appropriate transportation.

• Sponsor summer camp scholarships.

• Develop a referral document that provides names and numbers of relevant programs, services and assistance (school, shelter, provider information).

• Send school information (newsletters, etc.) to shelters so children can be fully involved in all available programs.

• Establish a special fund for homeless students to have school pictures taken and birthday treats for classmates (without embarrassment).

• Study the sensitive issues of child abuse or domestic violence and develop guidelines on how to handle communications with the abuser, both on the phone and in person at the school building.

• Distribute information to fellow teachers and office staff, and provide in-service for school staff on the subject of homelessness and its causes and effects on children.

• Encourage pupil services personnel to conduct home visits with homeless students living at shelters.

• Find a way to communicate and share successes.

• Observe warning signs for possible homelessness (several school and address changes, lack of supplies, etc.)
Coordinators at 8 Regional Sites can assist with these services:

- School enrollment/placement;
- Agency referrals (clothing, food, shelter);
- Tracking/transferring school records;
- Accessing educational programs;
- Interagency problem-solving;
- Literature on homeless children;
- Increasing public awareness on homeless issues; and
- Consultative phone calls to answer school, agency and shelter questions.
Eight Homeless Children’s Initiative Regional Sites are in operation at the locations listed below, with the State Coordinator located in Harrisburg. All of these individuals would be happy to assist with any questions you might have about a specific situation or general ways to help homeless students.

**Sheldon Winnick, State Coordinator**  
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program  
Pennsylvania Department of Education  
333 Market Street, 5th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333  
Telephone: (717) 783-6468 or (717) 783-6466  
Fax: (717) 783-4392  
Email: swinnick@state.pa.us

**Lynda Long, Youth Development Coordinator**  
Center for Schools and Communities  
275 Grandview Avenue, Suite 200  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
Telephone: (717) 763-1661, ext. 156  
Fax: (717) 763-2083  
Email: llong@csc.csiu.org
Region #1
(Philadelphia County)

School District of Philadelphia
Al Quarles, Regional Coordinator
Office of Specialized Services
Homeless Children’s Initiative
440 North Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Telephone: (215) 400-6045
Fax: (215) 400-4171
Email: abquarles@phila.k12.pa.us

Region #2
(Berks, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties)

Berks County Intermediate Unit #14
Beth Rothermel, Regional Coordinator
1111 Commons Boulevard
P.O. Box 16050
Reading, PA 19612-6050
Telephone: (610) 987-8509 or (800) 510-2741
Fax: (610) 987-8400
Email: betrot@berksiu.org

Lancaster School District
Kenneth B. Marzinko, Site Coordinator
Carter & MacRae School
251 South Prince Street, 4th Floor
Lancaster, PA 17603
Telephone: (717) 396-6829
Fax: (717) 396-6814
Email: kbmarzinko@lancaster.k12.pa.us
Region #2 - (continued)

Becky Ortega-Lyda, Project Assistant
Telephone: (717) 291-6290
Fax: (717) 396-6814
Email: bortega-lyda@lancaster.k12.pa.us

Chester County Intermediate Unit #24
Charles Wagner, Site Coordinator
455 Boot Road
Downingtown, PA 19335
Telephone: (484) 237-5406
Mobile Phone: (484) 889-7686
Fax: (484) 237-5263
Email: CharlesWa@cciu.org

Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15
Patrice Bixler, Site Coordinator
55 Miller Street
Summerdale, PA 17025-1640
Telephone: (717) 732-8400, ext. 8090
Telephone (for 717 area code only): (800) 244-2425
Fax: (717) 732-8425
Email: pbixler@caiu.org
Region #3
(Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry and York Counties)

Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12
Sonia Pitzi, Regional Coordinator
York Learning Center
300 East Seventh Avenue, Suite 600
York, PA 17404
Telephone: (717) 843-1128 or (717) 718-5924
Email: slpitzi@iu12.org

Region #4
(Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland Counties)

Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3
Gail Arden Odorcich, Regional Coordinator
475 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120
Telephone: (412) 394-5894
Fax: (412) 394-5835
Email: gail.odorcich@aiu3.net

Intermediate Unit #1
Michelle Voithofer, Assistant Regional Coordinator
One Intermediate Unit Drive
Coal Center, PA 15423
Telephone: (724) 938-0820, ext. 21
Fax: (724) 938-2873
Email: Voithoferm@iu1.k12.pa.us
Region #4 (continued)

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit #7
Mary Clark, Assistant Regional Coordinator
102 Equity Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
Telephone: (724) 219-2309
Fax: (724) 836-2561
Email: mclark@wiu.k12.pa.us

Region #5
(Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties)

Midwestern Intermediate Unit #4
Wendy Kinnear, Regional Coordinator
453 Maple Street
Grove City, PA 16127-2399
Telephone: (724) 458-6700, ext. 289
Fax: (724) 458-4468
Email: wendy_kinnear@miu4.k12.pa.us

Mary Jo Kelly, Intermediate Unit Liaison
(Mercer County)
453 Maple Street
Grove City, PA 16127-2324
Telephone: (724) 458-6700, ext. 247
Fax: (724) 458-5083
Email: maryjo_Kelly@miu4.k12.pa.us

Susan Pfahles, Intermediate Unit Liaison
(Lawrence County)
Lawrence County Education Center
3463 Wilmington Road
New Castle, PA 16105
Telephone: (724) 652-3302
Fax: (724) 652-6882
Email: sue_pfahles@miu4.k12.pa.us
Region #5 (continued)

Robert Papa, Intermediate Unit Liaison  
(Butler County)  
Clarence Brown Community School  
1104 Pittsburgh Pike  
Butler, PA 16001  
Telephone: (724) 458-6700, ext. 541  
Fax: (724) 287-4009  
Email: Robert_papa@miu4.k12.pa.us

Erie School District
Danny Jones, Site Coordinator  
(Crawford, Erie, Forest, McKean, Warren Counties)  
American Meter Building  
913 Payne Avenue  
Erie, PA 16503  
Telephone: (814) 574-6975  
Fax: (814) 874-6976  
Email: djjones@eriesd.org

Riverview Intermediate Unit #6
Karlene Kimes, Intermediate Unit Liaison  
(Clarion, Forest, Venango Counties)  
270 Mayfield Road  
Clarion, PA 16214  
Telephone: (800) 672-7103, ext. 143  
Fax: (814) 226-2711  
Email: kakimes@riu6.org

Mary Miller, Intermediate Unit Liaison  
(Forest, Venango Counties)  
270 Mayfield Road  
Clarion, PA 16214  
Telephone: (814) 226-7103, ext. 152  
Fax: (814) 226-2711  
Email: mmiller@riu6.org
Region #6
(Armstrong, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Indiana, Jefferson and Potter Counties)

ARIN Intermediate Unit #28
Andrea Sheesley, Regional Coordinator
2895 West Pike Road
Indiana, PA 15701-9769
Telephone: (724) 463-5300, ext. 1235
Fax: (724) 463-5315
Email: asheesley@iu28.org

Region #7
(Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne and Wyoming Counties)

Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18
Lori Conway, Regional Coordinator
368 Tioga Avenue
Kingston, PA 18704
Telephone: (570) 718-4613
Fax: (570) 287-5721
Email: lconway@liu18.org

Region #8
(Bucks, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton Counties)

Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
Thomas M. Norlen, Regional Coordinator
705 Shady Retreat Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
Telephone: (800) 770-4822, ext. 1361
Fax: (215) 340-1964
Email: tnorlen@bucksiu.org
Region #8 (continued)

Allentown School District
Russell A. Valentini, Site Coordinator
31 South Penn Street
P.O. Box 328
Allentown, PA 18105
Telephone: (484) 765-4037
Fax: (484) 765-4045
Email: valentinir@allentownsd.org

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #23
Jane M. Pigott, Site Coordinator
1605 West Main Street
Norristown, PA 19403
Telephone: (610) 755-9333
Fax: (610) 539-5973
Email: jpigott@mciu.org
Internet Resources

For additional information, you can research the Internet at these locations:

Pennsylvania Department of Education Homeless Web site:
www.pde.state.pa.us/homeless

Center for Schools and Communities Homeless Web site:
http://homeless.center-school.org/

Chapter 12 Toolkit
www.pachapter12toolkit.info

Corporation for Supportive Housing:
www.csh.org

Handsnet:
http://www.handsnet.org/homelessness.php

Homeless Advocacy Project of the Philadelphia Bar Association:
www.homelessadvocacyproject.org

Homelessness Resource Center:
http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov

Homes for the Homeless:
www.homesforthehomeless.com

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania:
www.housingalliancepa.org

National Alliance to End Homelessness:
www.endhomelessness.org
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth:
www.naehcy.org

National Center for Homeless Education at Serve:
www.serve.org/nche

National Center on Family Homelessness:
www.familyhomelessness.org

National Coalition for the Homeless:
www.nationalhomeless.org

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty:
www.nlchp.org

National Low Income Housing Coalition:
www.nlihc.org

National Network 4 Youth:
www.nn4youth.org

Office of the Victim Advocate, Address Confidentiality Program:
www.pbpp.state.pa.us/ova/

Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness:
www.pceh.org

One of the main goals of the Homeless Children’s Initiative is to help each homeless student have a school life that is as regular as possible during the period of homelessness.