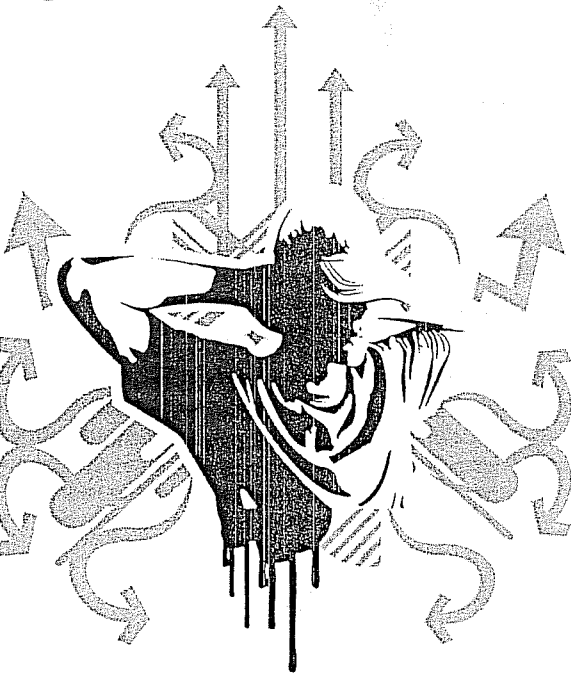


# Educational Rights of Homeless Children



A child is a homeless child

*if...*

the child is between the ages of 5 and 21 on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year, and the child:

- ▶ does not have a house or apartment to live in.
- ▶ shares a house with others because the child's family does not have enough money.
- ▶ lives in a motel or any place that the child can only live for a short time.
- ▶ is in a shelter waiting for a place to live.
- ▶ lives in a car, a park, an abandoned building, a bus or train station, a campground, a tent or a place that is not a regular sleeping place for people.
- ▶ is in a shelter and is waiting for a foster care placement.
- ▶ is living with someone who is not the child's parents, because the child's parents do not have enough money.

If your child is homeless,  
the school

*must...*

- ▶ let your child stay in the school of origin (this means the home school or the school your child was in before your child became homeless).
- ▶ provide transportation to the home school as soon as possible.
- ▶ admit your homeless child and let your child have an exemption for 30 school days from providing proof of age to begin kindergarten.
- ▶ let your child attend the new school if you, the parent, don't want the child to stay in the home school.
- ▶ admit your homeless child immediately even if your child does not have shots records, doctor records, and other records which are required by the school. These records must be provided within 30 school days of your child's enrollment in school.
- ▶ assist you in getting the records within 30 school days.

## School Contact Information

Director of Student Intervention Services  
**Ann Faraone** 561-738-2902, Px 22902  
faraonea@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

South Area Coordinator of Student Intervention Services  
**Horacio Ochoa** 561-738-2943, Px 22943  
ochoag@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

Central Area Coordinator of Student Intervention Services  
**Anax Pompilus** 561-434-8852, Px 48852  
apompilus@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

North Area Coordinator of Student Intervention Services  
**Thyra Starr** 561-840-3269, Px 23269  
starr@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

West Area Coordinator of Student Intervention Services  
**Eric Quinones** 561-753-4024, Px 24024  
quinones@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

Neglected Sites Coordinator of Student Intervention Services  
**Angela Williams** 561-840-3294, Px 23294  
williamsang@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

## Legal Aid Contact Information

**Jannette Hernandez** Legal Aid of Palm Beach County  
561-822-9786 (ext. 285)  
jhernandez@legalaidpbc.org

## Websites Information

National Center for Homeless Education  
[www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
[www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org)

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
[www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org)

## Comparable Services

If your child is homeless, your child can have the same transportation services, education services, and meals by school nutrition programs as other children.

## Free and Reduced Lunch and Breakfast Program

Free or reduced cost breakfasts and lunches are available to your family if:

- ▶ your family is homeless.
- ▶ your family now receives food stamps or cash assistance (Public Assistance, Welfare payments or TANF).
- ▶ your total household income is below income guidelines.
- ▶ your family has a foster child (if this is true, the foster child may be eligible no matter what your family income is.)

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Do any special rules apply to migrant or immigrant students?**

No. Public schools must serve all migrant and immigrant children. This is true even if the family or student is undocumented.

**What if I don't want anyone to know that my child is homeless or about where they are living?**

Schools cannot give out any information about your child to people who are not involved in your child's education.

**What does it mean to be "awaiting foster care placement?"**

Young people who are in the custody of a social services agency and living in an emergency shelter while waiting to be placed with a family.

**Who should I contact first?**

You should contact the school districts first. If the school does not take action, please contact our legal aid.

This brochure is made possible by a grant from the Florida Bar Foundation

