

Helpful questions to ask the school so that you may receive all needed services:

- What transportation is available to stay in the same school?
- If I have to change schools, can someone help transfer records quickly?
- Are any tutoring services available?
- If special education services are needed, how long is the wait for testing?
- Are there special classes to benefit a talent I have?
- Are there sports, music or other activities available to me?
- How can I receive free meals at school?
- Are school supplies available?
- Will I be able to go on class field trips if unable to pay?
- How can I get a required school uniform if one cannot be bought?

If you have questions about enrolling in school or need assistance with enrolling in school, contact:

Your local school district liaison:

Brandy Fisher
304-788-4218

West Virginia Department of Education

Rebecca Derenge

Coordinator, Homeless Education

Office of Federal Programs

Bldg. 6, Room 330

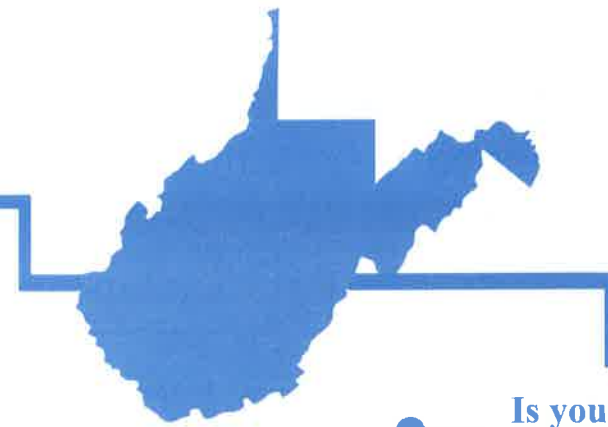
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● — Is your residence or housing uncertain?

● — Do you live at a temporary address?

● — Do you lack a permanent physical address?

You can still enroll in school!



Mobility and Education Facts

- According to a 1994 U.S. General Accounting Office report analyzing national data on third graders, one-half million children attended more than three schools between first and third grade.
- According to the 2000 U.S. Census Report, 15 to 18 percent of school-age children changed residences from the previous year.
- Frequent school changes have been correlated with lower academic achievement, according to the U.S. General Accounting Office article *Elementary school children: Many change schools frequently, harming their education.*
- It may take four to six months to recover academically from a school transfer, according to *Homes for the Homeless.*
- Mobile students are half as likely to graduate from high school, according to the *PACE Policy Brief.*
- Students who move frequently have lower attendance rates; a 20 percent absence rate results in achievement scores 20 points lower than those of stable peers, according to the *Kids Mobility Project Report.*
- According to Education Week, mobile students are twice as likely to repeat a grade.

The federal McKinney-Vento Act and West Virginia state law and policy guarantee that you can enroll in school if you live:

- In a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter or transitional living program);
- In a motel, hotel or weekly rate housing;
- In a house or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss;
- In an abandoned building, a car, at a campground or on the street;
- In substandard housing (no electricity, no water, and/or no heat); or
- With friends or family because you are a runaway or unaccompanied youth.

You may also:

- Continue to attend the school in which you were last enrolled, even if you have moved away from that school's attendance zone or district (if feasible and in the best interest of the child);
- Receive transportation from the current residence back to the school of origin;
- Qualify automatically for Child Nutrition Programs (Free and Reduced-Price Lunch and other district food programs);
- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which you are eligible; and
- Contact the district liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process.

Enrollment Forms

If you live in one of these situations, as for all students enrolling in West Virginia schools, you may enroll in school without the following documents in hand; however, your full cooperation is needed with county and school personnel in trying to obtain these documents as soon as possible.

- Proof of residency
- Certified birth certificate
- Immunization records (in-state students only)
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

However, if you are coming from out of state without proof of at least the first series of immunizations, you will be enrolled, but homebound instruction will immediately be provided until appropriate immunizations can be obtained.

When you move, the following should be done:

- Contact the school district's liaison for help in enrolling in a new school or arranging to continue in the school you have been attending.
- Contact the new school and provide any information necessary to assist the teachers in helping you adjust to new circumstances.
- Ask the local liaison, shelter staff, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.