

Educational Rights

Under the McKenney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there
- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records or immunization/medical records
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records
- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited
- If a dispute about placement or transportation, parent/guardian should contact the District Liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process. The Liaison will arrange a resolution meeting within 7 days with school administration and the family. In the case of no resolution, an appeal can be filed at the state level by sending the dispute to the attention of the Florida Department of Education Homeless Education Program, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 352, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400.

VISION STATEMENT

All students will complete school prepared for ongoing learning as well as community and global responsibilities.

<http://www.collierschools.com/homeless>

DR. KAMELA PATTON
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF COLLIER COUNTY

ROY M. TERRY, CHAIR

STEPHANIE LUCARELLI, VICE CHAIR

ERICK CARTER, BOARD MEMBER

JEN MITCHELL, BOARD MEMBER

DR. JORY WESTBERRY, BOARD MEMBER

No person in this district shall, on the basis of race, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, religion, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, or in employment conditions or practices conducted by The District School Board of Collier County.

For questions or complaints (adults) regarding the Educational Equity Act, Title IX, Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act), or the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact Valerie Wenrich, Executive Director, Human Resources (239) 377-0351. For questions or complaints (students) regarding the Educational Equity Act, Title IX, or The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, contact Steve McFadden, Coordinator of School Counseling K-8 (239) 377-0517. For questions or complaints (students) regarding Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact Dr. Dena Landry, Psychological Services, (239) 377-0521. The address for the above contacts is:

The District School Board of Collier County,
5775 Osceola Trail, Naples, FL 34109.

Exceptional Education and
Student Support Services

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

Karen Stelmacki
Executive Director

Hemlal Kafle
Liaison for Education of
Homeless Students



Who are Homeless Students?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act protects the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness. It provides grants and legal protections so children and youth in homeless situations can enroll in, attend, and succeed in school and preschool programs. Section 725 of the Act defines “homeless children and youth” (school age and younger) as:

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied youth – A homeless child or youth, who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Goal

The District School Board of Collier County identifies homeless students to help minimize the disruption of their education experience. Homeless children often have a lack of continuity in their education due to attendance in several different schools and consequent gaps in skill development. The district’s mission is to provide consistent and high quality educational experiences for **all** students to enable them to achieve their maximum potential. To assist the homeless students, a Liaison has been hired to work exclusively with the students and their parents.



Helpful Service information for enrollment may include;

The Collier County Health Department (*Free Immunizations**)

3339 East Tamiami Trail, Suite 145
Phone: (239) 252-8200 for appointment

Vital Statistics - Florida Birth Certificates (239) 252-8205

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (*Free Physical*), (239) 658-3013 for appointment.

Dental Health - Emergency, restorative and preventative care for children up to 21 and financially eligible adults. (239) 252-5314

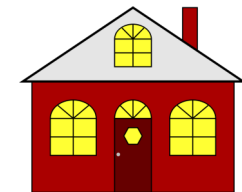
Children’s Dentistry of Naples - For appointments (up to 18 years old) (239) 262-3898

Access - SNAP, Medicaid, cash assistance. 1-866-762-2237 or www.myflorida.com/accessflorida

**A Florida Certificate of Immunization, or exemption, and a physical examination shall be provided to the school within 30 days of the enrollment date. Immunizations are available free of charge at the Florida Department of Health in Naples and Immokalee. Assistance in obtaining a physical is available from your child’s school nurse.*

What the Liaison Can Do

- Assist with timely registration and enrollment
- Arrange transportation to/from school of origin if eligible
- Arrange for continued attendance at the school of origin
- Arrange free meals
- Obtain services for English language learners
- Refer to services available through Collier County Public Schools
- Assist in obtaining immunizations and physicals for enrollment
- Counsel students and parents
- Provide parental support
- Assist in obtaining school supplies and uniforms
- Coordinate services with community agencies as needed.



For more information contact:

Hemlal Kafle

Phone: (239) 377-0544

Fax: (239) 377-0161

E-mail: kafleh@collierschools.com