

## Community Resources



### **Dial 2-1-1 or Text your zip code to 898-211**

This number links you with a trained operator 24/7 who has access to a database of a variety of services such as food or clothing assistance, mental health services as well as homeless resources.

### **National Center for Homeless Education**

Helpline: 800-308-2145

Email: [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)

NCHE is available to help with any issues regarding the education of a child or youth experiencing homelessness.



### **North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless**

[www.nachcares.org](http://www.nachcares.org)

256-261-3029, option 1

Call or go to the website and click "Apply for help" to complete a Coordinated Entry application. Once the application is completed, the team will assess your needs and connect you with appropriate housing and services in the area.



**School Counselor**

OR

District Liaisons:

**Natalia Dooley, EdD**

Federal Programs Coordinator

[nadooley@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:nadooley@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

256-464-8370

**Briana Hawkins, LMSW**

**James Clemens Feeder Pattern**

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256-783-2807

**DeAnna Haataja, LBSW**

**Part-time MV Social Worker**

[dmhaataja.ne@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:dmhaataja.ne@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

256-947-9822

Madison City Schools Central Office

256-464-8370

211 Celtic Drive

Madison, AL 35758

Source: NCHE publications are supported through a contract with the U.S. Department of Education's office of Safe and Healthy Students.



## **McKinney-Vento Program**

General Information, Services and Resources

### **Who Qualifies?**

Your family may qualify for services through a federal program called the McKinney-Vento Act if you are in any of the following living situations:

- In an emergency shelter or transitional housing
- In a hotel, motel, or campground due to the lack of an adequate alternative accommodations
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus/ train station
- Temporarily staying with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship

*The McKinney-Vento Act can provide certain educational rights and services to your preschool and school-aged children, if eligible.*

## McKinney-Vento Educational Rights

**Under the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth have the right to:**

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending the school of origin, according to each student's "best interest"
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's needs

\*If the School District believes that the school selected is not in the student's best interest, the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its position and inform the parent, guardian, or youth of the right to appeal its decision.

## Available Services:

- Assistance with school enrollment
- Free school breakfast and lunch
- School clothes and supplies
- Referrals for medical, dental and mental health services
- Assistance with school fees
- Referrals to community agencies

## If I move, what should I do?

- Contact your Social Worker for assistance with enrollment at the new school or help arranging for your child to remain in the school of origin.
- Share any important information with the school that would be helpful to teachers and staff to ensure a smooth transition leading to academic success.
- Ask the district liaison, School Social Worker, or School Counselor for assistance with school supplies and/or clothing when needed.

It is very important to keep your Social Worker updated on your living situation in order to provide transportation assistance, appropriate community referrals and support to you and your family during this time.

If you establish permanent residency during the school year, contact your Social Worker/ Homeless Liaison immediately to help with school enrollment at your new school or arrange for your child to remain at their school of origin. Your child's McKinney-Vento status is valid for the entire school year despite establishing residency at any point.



## What questions should I ask about services under the McKinney-Vento Act?

- Who are the school liaison and district liaison? How can I contact them?
- What transportation is available for my child to stay in the same school (the school or origin)?
- If my child changes schools, who can help us transfer records to the new school quickly?
- How can my child receive free meals at school? • How can my child receive free school supplies, if needed?
- Who can help if my child needs special education services? How quickly can these services be set up?
- What academic help is available for my child, such as Title I programs or after-school tutoring?
- What programs can help develop my child's talent and address his/her unique needs?
- Are there sports, music, or other activities available for my child?
- How can my child go on class field trips or participate in other school activities if I can't pay for them?
- Is there a preschool program for my younger children?

***You are an important partner in your child's education and should work as a team with the school and school district to help your child Succeed.***

