



**Ms. Michele Eagle**

Assistant Director of Federal Programs & Assessment  
Raytown Quality Schools  
10750 E. 350 Highway  
Phone: 816 268-7000  
Fax: 816-268-7087

October 9, 2020

Dear Community Partner:

My name is Michele Eagle, Assistant Director of Family Support Services and Assessment for the Raytown School District. I am the designated Homeless Liaison for the district as required by The Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) program, authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act). This program is designed to address the needs of homeless children and youths and ensure educational rights and protections for these children and youths.

The role of the Homeless Liaison is to ensure homeless children and youths are enrolled in school and have a full and equal opportunity for success. This is accomplished through ensuring families and youths understand their rights to immediate enrollment, access to transportation, and access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible. Another key responsibility is outreach to our community resources. *We ask for your support in assisting students and families within the community who may be experiencing homelessness to be connected to the Raytown School Family Support Services office.*

The following information is designed to improve understanding of the term 'homeless' as defined by law. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the term "homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youths:

- who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- who 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;
- who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- and who are migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances.



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If families, children, or youths are found to be homeless, the McKinney-Vento Act provides rights to students and parents who are considered homeless:

- homeless students who move have the right to remain in their schools of origin (i.e., the school the student attended when permanently housed or in which the student was last enrolled, which includes preschools) if that is in the student's best interest;
- if it is in the student's best interest to change schools, homeless students must be immediately enrolled in a new school, even if they do not have the records normally required for enrollment;
- transportation must be provided to or from a student's school of origin, at the request of a parent, guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the local liaison;
- homeless students must have access to all programs and services for which they are eligible, including special education services, preschool, school nutrition programs, language assistance for English learners, career and technical education, gifted and talented programs, magnet schools, charter schools, summer learning, online learning, and before and after-school care;
- unaccompanied youths must be accorded specific protections, including immediate enrollment in school without proof of guardianship; and
- parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youths have the right to dispute an eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision.

I've included a simple poster which you may display where you serve families. It is a simple, straightforward informational poster which has my contact information, as well as the state homeless liaison's contact information, should families or youths have any questions. Please feel free to reach out to my office if you have any questions, suspect a family may need some support, or is known to be homeless. Family Support Services can be reached at 816-268-7031 or [familysupport@raytownschools.org](mailto:familysupport@raytownschools.org) and we will be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you so much for being a valued member of our community and I look forward to partnering with you on behalf of our families.

Sincerely,

Michele Eagle  
Assistant Director of Family Support Services & Assessment, (Homeless Liaison)  
Raytown C-2 School District