

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



## IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter



In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation



In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station



Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

*Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the  
Federal McKinney-Vento Act.*

### Your eligible children 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 their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.
  - \* If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

*If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.*



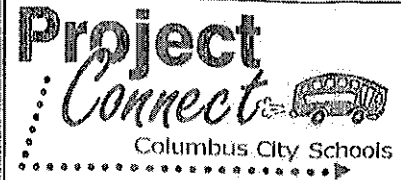
Columbus City Schools  
Project Connect  
Adult & Community Education  
614 365-5140  
www.cpsadulted.org

State Coordinator  
Susannah Wayland  
Ohio Department of Education  
614 466-4161

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs,  
contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145 \* [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org) \* [www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)

# Project Connect



## What is Project Connect?

Project Connect ensures the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness as outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Project Connect staff determine a family's eligibility for services, and work with parents, schools, community agencies, and surrounding school districts to ensure that homeless students in grades Pre-K through 12 have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school.

## Program Services

Project Connect works with several agencies and surrounding school districts to provide assistance with:



- school selection and enrollment
- school transportation
- after-school tutoring and homework assistance at shelter agencies
- book bags and school supplies for students
- addressing barriers that affect school attendance and full participation
- obtaining necessary documents such as birth certificates, school records, and medical records
- dispute resolution

## Who is Homeless?

The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence.

It includes those who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of home, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- living in motels or hotels.
- staying in trailer parks or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- abandoned in hospitals.
- awaiting foster care placement.
- living on their own, such as youth who have run away or have been put out of their home.



## Adult and Community Education Columbus City Schools

*Columbus City Schools Mission Statement: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.*  
*ACE Vision Statement: The Department of Adult and Community Education of Columbus City Schools will provide the quality academic and occupational education that all students need for successful living in the 21st Century.*



**Phone: 614.365.5140 Fax: 614.365.6213**  
2323 Lexington Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211 [www.ccsdoh.us/ace.aspx](http://www.ccsdoh.us/ace.aspx)

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate based upon sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ancestry, familial status or military status with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.

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- ◆ School selection and enrollment
- ◆ After school tutoring and homework assistance
- ◆ Book bags and school supplies for students
- ◆ Coordination of school transportation
- ◆ Assistance with obtaining necessary documents such as birth certificates, school records, and medical records
- ◆ Dispute Resolution

## *Who is Homeless?*

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  - ◆ living in motels or hotels
  - ◆ staying in trailer parks or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
  - ◆ living in emergency or transitional shelters
  - ◆ abandoned
  - ◆ awaiting foster care placement
  - ◆ living on their own such as youth who have run away or have been put out of their home.

### *Advocacy*

Advocacy and community awareness are pivotal components of Project Connect's work. Educating school personnel and others about the complex needs of families experiencing homelessness is essential to providing quality services.



### *Program Coordination*

Project Connect staff determine a family's eligibility for services. The staff consults with parents, schools, community agencies, and surrounding school districts. Project Connect ensures that homeless students in grades Pre-K through 12 have full and equal opportunity to succeed, as specified in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



# Project Connect



Columbus City Schools

*Agency Collaborations*

Amethyst  
CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence  
Child Development Council—Head Start  
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless  
Hands On Central Ohio  
Homeless Families Foundation  
OSU-STAR Program  
The Salvation Army  
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio  
YWCA Family Center

*District Collaboration*

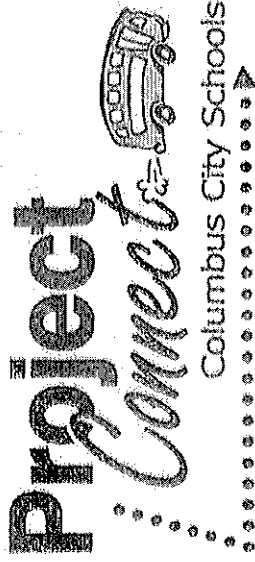
Project Connect coordinates services within Columbus City Schools through the Department of Adult and Community Education and collaborates with all Franklin County School Districts.

*Operating Funds*

Operating funds are made available through a grant from the Ohio Department of Education and the Columbus City Schools Title I allocation.

Revised June 2015

ACE is part of the  
University System of Ohio.



*Education of Children Experiencing Homelessness*

**Columbus City Schools**

**Mission Statement:**

“Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.”

Dr. Dan Good,  
Superintendent, CEO



**Adult & Community Education**  
**Columbus City Schools**



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**614.365.5140**