

KNOW YOUR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS – HOMELESS STUDENTS

COVID-19 Updates: July 29, 2020

Are you a student experiencing homelessness? You have rights!

During school closures and reopening plans for COVID-19, you have the right to remote or online learning. You have the right to get services, resources, and support from your school.

Who is a homeless student?

The law says “homeless” students are those who don’t have “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” This includes when you and your family double-up with other family members or friends due to loss of housing, financial hardship, living in a motel/hotel or staying in a shelter or in a car.

Where can homeless students go to school?

Where you go to school depends on what is in your **best interest**. If you move to a new temporary place in a different school district, you can **stay enrolled** in the school you went to before you moved unless you or your parents don’t want that.

What should a school do for a homeless student?

- The school should **enroll you immediately**. Ask for the Homeless Liaison at the school.
- The school should let you **attend classes**, including online classes.
- The school should give you **meals, social work services**, and other resources.
- The school must give you **equal access** to the same services other students have. If non-homeless students are given technology or other services for remote learning, the school must provide the same equipment/services to homeless students.

What if the school makes a decision that you or your family do not agree with?

If a school makes an enrollment decision that you do not feel is in **your best interest**, you have the right to begin the **dispute resolution process**. First, the school should tell you their decision in writing. You can appeal if you disagree. You may call Legal Services of Eastern Missouri for help if this happens. While the school reconsiders its decision, you should be allowed to enroll and attend classes.

What about getting free meals?

You may be able to get free meals from your school district during COVID-19 closures. See <https://www.operationfoodsearch.org/covid-19-meal-map/>

Who should help?

Your school’s Homeless Liaison should help you get what you need, and can help answer all your questions. Here is a list of current homeless liaison school staff:

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/qs-hmls-liaisons-19-20.pdf>

NEED HELP? Apply online at www.lsem.org or call 314.534.4200 / 800.444.0514

**More COVID-19 information & resources available at :
[www.lsem.org / covid-19-updates](http://www.lsem.org/covid-19-updates) or follow us on facebook**