Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
Action.Justice.Hope.

Health and Education Justice Initiative
Advancing justice in child health and well-being

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Are you staying in temporary housing?
Do you want to stay in your current school?
Are you having trouble enrolling in school or getting there?

Help may be available



1. **You have special rights at school if you are**:
   - Staying temporarily with someone else because you had to leave your home
   - Staying in a motel, trailer park, or campground
   - Staying outside or in a place that is not meant for sleeping
   - Staying in poor housing that does not have utilities such as water, electricity, or heat
   - Staying in a shelter or in a car



2. **Those rights include:**
   - Staying in the same school even if you move, and receiving transportation to that school, **as long as it's in your best interest**
   - Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually require, and without a parent or guardian
   - Receiving free school meals
   - Getting help with school supplies and other needs



3. **Contact your school district's McKinney-Vento Liaison** to find out if you qualify for help. Below is a link to the list of current homeless liaison school staff (updated November 2024):
   https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/homeless-liaisons-sy-2024-25



4. **Contact the Missouri McKinney-Vento State Coordinator** if you can't reach the Liaison or have other questions, at 573-522-8763 or tera.bock@dese.mo.gov.

Health and Education Justice Initiative
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