

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS

Section 725 (2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which applies to the Stoughton Public Schools, defines homeless children and youths as:

- Individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence or have a primary nighttime residence in a supervised, publicly or privately, operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized or a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

This definition includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons 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; are abandoned in hospitals or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth 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;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations;
- Migratory children (as such term is defined in Section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above; and
- Unaccompanied youth, a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act requires that school districts immediately enroll a homeless student, even if they do not have the documents usually required for enrollment, such as school records, record of immunizations, medical records or proof of residency. Homeless youth covered by the Act may also be entitled to other services or program benefits, such as transportation or reduced/free lunch.

The Stoughton Public Schools will implement all regulations and assist students and families designated as homeless.

The Stoughton Public Schools will designate a Homeless Education Liaison who will coordinate activities between the family and school officials.

Legal Reference: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
("No Child Left Behind Act", P.L. 107-110, Dec. 2001)

Adopted by the Stoughton School Committee: December 14, 2004

