

Supporting the Education of Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Belding Area Schools District Families:

No Child Left Behind Federal Legislation requires local school districts to identify and serve students in “homeless” situations. The definition of homeless is much broader than one might expect. Essentially, anyone who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence can be qualified as homeless. This includes, but is not limited to, those who live in shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, public spaces, those who share housing with other families because of economic hardship, or live in motels, hotels, or campgrounds. Children in a foster care situation that is less than six months in duration also qualify.

It is the district’s responsibility to help identify these children, enroll them in school, and help them with opportunities for academic success. If you believe a member of your household may qualify as homeless please contact the district immediately to obtain the necessary paperwork and identify eligible students.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act acknowledges that disputes may arise between the school District and homeless students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) when the student is placed in a school other than the one requested. Guidance for school selection is provided in the law. The law includes dispute resolution among the required duties of the LEA Liaison. Disputes should be addressed to Mike Burde, our LEA Liaison, or to Pam Kies-Lowe the state coordinator. Our goal is to do whatever it takes to help our children be successful.

Mike Burde,
Director of Instruction and Technology (Homeless Coordinator)

Contacts

District: Mike Burde or Deborah Rogers 616-794-4700
Early Childhood Ctr: Mary Skivington 616-794-4731
Ellis Elementary: Amy Deiter 616-794-4140
Woodview Elementary: Rosemary Marcusse 616-794-4793
Belding Middle School: Deb Wright 616-794-4445
Belding High School: Donna Isaacs 616-794-4952
Alternative Education: Ann VanDusen 616-794-4646