

## WHAT FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS NEED TO KNOW

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have a right to attend school.
- You do not need a permanent address to enroll your child in school.
- Children in homeless situations have the right to stay in the school they attended before becoming homeless or where they were last enrolled (school of origin) if the parents or guardians choose.
- Schools must provide you with a written explanation if placement dispute occurs and you may appeal. (Contact your local liaison.)
- Your child cannot be denied school enrollment just because school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- Your child has the right to transportation services to and from the school of origin.
- Your child has the right to participate in extracurricular activities and all federal, state, or local programs for which he/she is eligible.
- Unaccompanied youth have these same rights. (Contact your local liaison.)



## DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

Anyone, *due to a lack of housing*, who lives in **inadequate** or **temporary** settings, such as:

- In emergency or transitional shelters;
- In motels, hotels, trailer parts, campgrounds, abandoned in hospitals, awaiting foster care placement;
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings;
- Doubled up with relatives or friends;
- In these conditions and is a migratory child or youth.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is committed to providing support for our students who are experiencing homelessness. We understand the challenges facing homeless students and have programs in place to make certain that these students have the resources necessary to obtain a successful education. FCPS has a homeless liaison responsible for ensuring that homeless children are identified, enrolled, and receive equitable access to high quality education and support services. Parents should contact the local liaison for assistance or ask any FCPS school to assist in contacting the homeless liaison.



Fairfax County Public Schools  
Department of Special Services  
Office of Student Services  
8115 Gatehouse Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22042

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A BROCHURE FOR FAMILIES IN  
TRANSITION:

## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

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FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES

# RESOURCES

## FOOD RESOURCES

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**FACETS**  
703-352-5090  
**Our Daily Bread**  
703-273-8829  
**Food for Others**  
703-207-9173  
**Salvation Army**  
703-385-8700

## MEDICAL SERVICES

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**Fairfax County Health Department**  
703-246-7100

**Walk-in Health Clinics**  
Willard Health Center – 703-246-7100  
Falls Church – 703-534-8343  
Herndon/Reston – 703-481-4242  
Springfield – 703-569-1031  
Mt. Vernon – 703-660-7100

**Hospitals**  
INOVA Fairfax – 703-698-1110  
INOVA Fair Oaks – 703-391-3600  
INOVA Alexandria – 703-504-3000  
INOVA Mt. Vernon – 703-664-7000  
Reston Hospital Center – 703-689-9000

**Emergency Care**  
Fairfax – 703-591-9322  
Franconia-Springfield – 703-797-6800  
Reston-Herndon – 703-471-0175

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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**Northwest Mental Health, Reston**  
703-481-4100  
**Woodburn Mental Health, Annandale**  
703-573-0523  
**Mt. Vernon Mental Health**  
703-360-6910  
**Springfield/Mt. Vernon Branch**  
703-866-2100  
**After Hours Emergency**  
Woodburn Mental Health – 703-573-0523

## LOW-COST MEDICAL INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

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**Partnership for Healthier Kids**  
703-321-1991

## HOUSING

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**Fairfax County**  
**Department of Human Services**  
(Resource for help with emergency housing, health care, financial assistance, and other human service needs.)  
703-222-0880

**Fairfax Department of Family Services**  
703-324-7800

**Emergency Family Shelters**  
Embry Rucker Community Shelter (Adults)  
703-437-1975  
Shelter House, Inc. (Families)  
703-536-2155  
Mondloch House  
703-768-3400  
Eleanor U. Kennedy Adult Shelter  
703-799-0200  
Volunteers of America Bailey's Shelter  
703-820-7623

## 24-HOUR HOTLINES

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**Victim Assistance Network**  
703-360-7273  
**Family Violence and Sexual Assault**  
1-800-221-8238  
**Northern Virginia Teen Hotline**  
1-800-729-8336  
**Adult Abuse**  
1-888-832-3858  
**Child Abuse**  
1-800-552-7096

## FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

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(Childcare, After-school programs, Headstart, etc.)  
703-324-8290

## CHILDFIND, FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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(Free assessment of child development for children under five.)  
703-876-5244

## LEGAL AID

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**Legal Services of Northern Virginia**  
703-246-4500  
**Lawyer Referral Services**  
703-246-3780

## PARENTING INFORMATION, FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Parent Resource Center**  
703-204-3941  
**Family Services and Involvement Section**  
703-277-2627

## FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

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Kathi Sheffel  
Fairfax County Public Schools  
Homeless Liaison  
571-423-4332