



### **MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS**

The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently reauthorized in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act. (ESSA). It was designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, state educational agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging state academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. State educational agencies and local educational agencies are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths. Challenges of physical health are also addressed with referrals for medical, dental, and other health services as needed. Coordination of transportation to and from school will be coordinated with the appropriate district, to ensure the student is able to continue to attend Gillingham if they choose to do so.

Who is considered homeless? Under McKinney-Vento Act, the term “homeless children and youths” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence that includes children and youths who are:

- ❖ Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- ❖ Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations;
- ❖ Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters
- ❖ Abandoned in hospitals
- ❖ Awaiting Foster care placement
- ❖ Living in public or private places not designated for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
- ❖ Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings
- ❖ Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples
- ❖ Living as run-away children
- ❖ Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations

Unaccompanied youth are afforded the same immediate enrollment, academic support, and can initiate their own school placement decisions and sign paperwork and/or other forms. Gillingham Charter School is committed to help your child receive a consistent quality education. If you or someone you know would benefit from the McKinney-Vento Act, please contact the homeless liaison:

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