

Students who are Homeless—Your Rights under Federal Law



You or your family are considered “homeless” if you are:

- Living in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground;
- Living on the street;
- Living in an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodation;
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you can’t find or afford housing;
- Waiting for a foster-care placement

Students who are homeless have certain rights under Federal law, including:

- The right to go to school and receive the services you need, just like other students;
- The right to continue in the school you were in before you became homeless, if you want to;
- The right to continue in the same school you are in if you are homeless now;
- The right to transportation to school, according to current District transportation guidelines;
- The right to enroll and attend classes without giving a permanent address;
- The right to enroll and attend classes even if you are missing documents usually required for enrollment;
- The right to attend the school of your choice while a dispute over your enrollment is being resolved, or, if the school district sends your child to a school other than the school of your choice, you have the right to a written explanation and the right to appeal that decision.

Seattle Public Schools has designated Ruth McFadden as our Homeless Liaison. You can contact Ruth McFadden at (206) 252-0822 or rmcfadden@seattleschools.org if you have questions about your rights under the law, or questions about services that may be available to you.