

GEM CHARTER SCHOOL

Homeless Education Policy

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer or other inadequate accommodations
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then, your preschool and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

Your children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible. If a school sends your child to a school other than the one you request, the school must provide you with a written explanation and offer you the right to appeal the decision.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Children cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your children.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Has a right to transportation to and from school. (GEM Charter School does not have bus services but will use public transportation).

Dispute Resolution

If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation, or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint with the GEM Charter School Board of Directors. GEM Charter School must respond and attempt to resolve it quickly. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school and provided some form of transportation until the matter is resolved. The Homeless Liaison will assist you in making decisions, providing notice of any appeal process and filling out dispute forms.

For more information, refer to <http://www.azed.gov/populations-projects/home/homeless/> or contact

Nelleke van Savooyen
Homeless Liaison for GEM Charter School,
1704 North Center Street, Mesa AZ 85201
(480)833-2622

Frank Migali, State coordinator for Homeless &
Refugee Education
Arizona Department of Education
1535 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix AZ 85007
(602)-542-963

The signature below indicates that the above information has been provided to the parent or guardian.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Student Name

Date