

Dispute Resolution Procedure

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act acknowledges that disputes may arise between the school district and transitioning student(s) and their parents/guardians 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.

The following procedures are specified in the Act:

- Transitioning student is to be immediately enrolled in the school preferred by the parents until the dispute is settled.
- School must provide a written explanation of the school placement decision to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. They must also tell you in writing how you can appeal this decision.
- Liaison: The designated LEA liaison is assigned to carry out the dispute resolution in an expeditious manner.

Local Liaison:
Janel Switzer
(616) 891-8185



Caledonia Community Schools

9753 Duncan Lake Avenue
Caledonia, MI 49316
www.calschools.org

P: 616-891-8185
F: 616-891-9253



HELPING YOUR STUDENT SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

A Guide for Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of Students in Transitional Housing



Caledonia Community Schools

In Transition

If your family is in a temporary or inadequate living situation due to a loss of housing, your child might be eligible for certain educational rights and services.

McKinney-Vento Act

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in transitional housing situations have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there.
- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment, such as birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records.
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school gathers records.
- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students, including transportation and supplemental educational services.
- Attend school with children not experiencing transitional housing; a school can not segregate a student because of this.



School Services

Caledonia Schools provides a number of services that help all children to succeed. Please be sure to let the liaison know if your student was previously involved, or should be involved with any of the following services:

- Academic Intervention (Title I)
- Special Education
- Vocational Education
- Alternative Education
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Bilingual/ESL
- Counseling
- Free-reduced breakfast/lunch
- Preschool Program
- Early Childhood Special Ed
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Speak with the liaison about any other services offered that your child may need

Community Services

Grand Rapids is home to many organizations that cater to those in need. The insert provided contains a list of resources to help with needs, other than academic, you and your child may have. Let the liaison know if there are personal needs, such as health needs, clothing, food, other personal items, shelter, or case management, that we may be able to assist you with either locally, or by pointing you to the proper organization.

"In pursuit of excellence, Caledonia Community Schools will empower and equip ALL persons to achieve their best by ensuring the highest quality system for learning"

What You Can Do To Help Your Student

Your child may be having difficulty adjusting to a new school or environment. Here are some things you can do to help your student continue doing well in school:

- Make sure your child goes to school every day and arrives rested and fed.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to do homework and set aside time every day to help your child with homework.
- Pay attention to your child's health needs and take care of problems early.
- Ask your child what he or she is learning in school; have him or her explain it to you. If you show interest in your child's education, he or she will know that it's important.
- Read to your child every day; for older children, set aside time each day for you and your child to read together silently. Talk about what you read.
- Praise your child for what he or she does well, like getting a good grade or playing on a school sports team.
- Listen to what your child shares with you and talk about any problems he or she is having. You can also talk about these problems with a teacher or school counselor.
- Encourage your child to participate in things like sports and music. Assistance with transportation may be available if needed.
- If your students don't have access to a computer for homework, check out places like your local library where they can get free access.