

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

Surviving on Your Own

Information for Youth on
How School Can Help
While Experiencing
Transitional Housing



Caledonia Community Schools

In Transition

If you are on your own, and are in a temporary or inadequate living situation, you 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 you live or how long you have lived there.
- Attend the local school or the school of origin, if this is in your best interest; the school of origin is the school you attended when you were permanently housed or the school in which you were 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 students not experiencing homelessness; a school can not segregate a student because he or she is homeless.

What Is Homeless?

MV definition of homeless includes: If you left your home, or were asked to leave, and are staying in the home of a friend or relative, in a shelter, in a temporary or inadequate trailer, in a motel, in a campground, or in another temporary place.



School Services

Caledonia Schools provides a number of services that help all students succeed. Please be sure to let the liaison know if you were 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
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Speak with the liaison about any other services offered that you 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 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"

Tips to Help You Succeed

Below are some common questions and answers for unaccompanied youth:

- **Who can help enroll me in school?**
Every school district has a local homeless education liaison. At Caledonia Schools, contact Randy Rodriguez at the administration building. The building secretary for the school you are or want to attend can also help you.
- **If I stay in the same school but don't have my own transportation, how can I get there?**
Speak with the school's liaison. The school has to make sure there is transportation for you to get to and from school if you cannot get there on your own.
- **What if I need some extra help with my schoolwork?**
The school is required to set up appropriate services for students that need extra help. Be sure to tell your school counselor, teachers, and the local liaison what you need, and if you received special education services at your last school.
- **What if I'm temporarily living outside of the school district? Can I still go to Caledonia?**
Yes. You can keep going to the same school if that is in your best interest. It might be better to change schools if, for example, travel time is too long, the school year just started so a change would be less difficult, or the new school has more appropriate programs or classes.