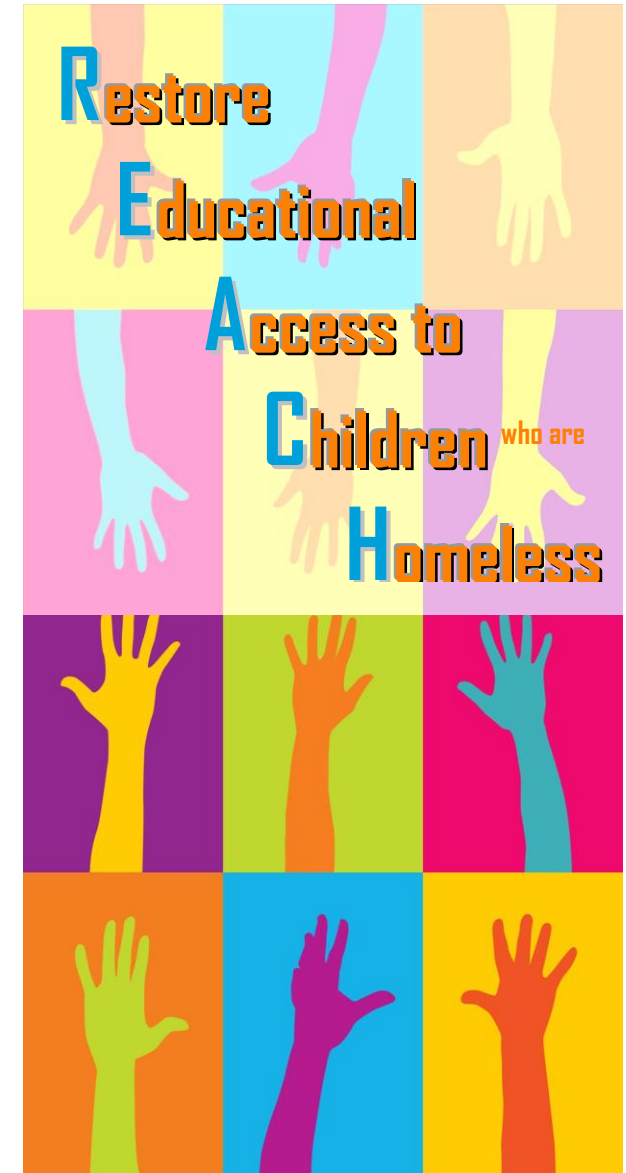


# REACH



## You Can Help Your Children With School, Even From Jail

**Children** usually like staying in their same school when they lose their place to live because it keeps things the same for them—being with their friends and their teachers. They do better in school if they don't change schools too often.

When a parent goes to jail it often means kids move in with family or friends until mom or dad is released. They may have to move to another area, not in the same school borders.

When a child loses a place to live because of hardship it means that the child becomes "homeless." If that happens, they have strong rights to education.

Parents in jail can help their children get into school, even if the children had to move in with caregivers while their mom or dad is away. You or your caregiver may call the toll-free number on this flyer to get help.

REACH gives you this information about the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act** so you can help your child's educational stability.

This law says your child, if homeless, may:

- Stay in the same school they were going to before moving in with a caregiver, or
- Get into the school near where they now stay while their parent is in jail. The choice is up to the family.



## It is important to know:

If the school disagrees with the guardian or caretaker about enrollment—

- Legal help is available at low or no-cost.
- The school must give the reason for denial in writing. A hearing will be quickly held to make a decision.
- The person taking care of your child does not need to be a legal guardian.
- Your privacy is protected by law.

**NOTE:** A family/caregiver giving false information about their housing just to get into a different school can cause problems for the children.

**REACH** is sponsored by **HEAR US** Inc., a national nonprofit organization that gives voice and visibility to homeless children. HEAR US created an 11-minute video: **REACH: Connect Your Children to School**, to explain more about this law. **VIEW THIS VIDEO FREE** or find more information at **www.hearus.us**.

Funded by a grant from Cook County (IL) Sheriff Dept., Women's Justice Services.

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 120 GREENSBORO NC

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UNITED STATES

**CHILDREN OR YOUTH  
WHO LOSE THEIR HOMES  
HAVE THE RIGHT  
TO GO TO SCHOOL UNDER THE  
FEDERAL MCKINNEY-VENTO  
HOMELESS EDUCATION ACT.**

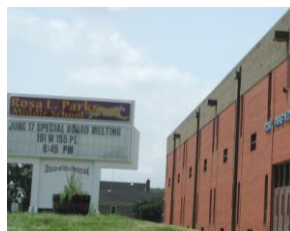
**FOR INFORMATION CALL  
1-800-308-2145**

# REACH—connect your children with education

## School—the one

place you know your kids are looked after while you are in jail.

Sometimes kids have a hard time staying in their old school or getting into a new school because they may be living with someone else while you are away.



If they were told they can't stay in their old school because they are not living in the old neighborhood or if the new school will not let them in, you can help them, even from jail. You can also give this information to your child's caregiver so they can ask for help.



This law to help homeless students, called the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act**, might help your children if they are now homeless. This flyer gives you information about this important law.

Not every child whose parent is locked up would be considered "HOMELESS." Each case is different. Someone can look at your family's case if your child is having problems getting into school.

**FOR HELP WITH SCHOOL  
1-800-308-2145**

LOCAL CONTACT #

## How This Law May Help Your Children



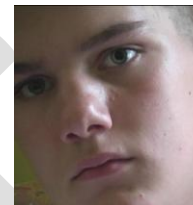
If your child/children lost their place to live because you went to jail, they may be considered **homeless**. They may be staying with family or friends. They may be moving from one place to another. They do not have to be at a shelter to be homeless.

## Homeless Children's Rights

- Children can stay in their old school—the one they last went to or the one they went to before they lost housing, or go to the school near where they are now staying—whatever is best for them.
- They get into school right away, without delay. The new school will get the papers from the old school and help your children with medical records and exams.
- Your children get help, including transportation, so they can do well in school.
- Their fees are waived and they get free lunch.
- If the school does not agree with what your children's caregiver says about them being "homeless," a fair and fast hearing, called "dispute resolution," will be held.
- The school must enroll your child while this is being decided. You can have help with you. **Call the number on this flyer first!**

## What You Need to Know...

- Every public school must follow this law, called "**McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act**."
- Every school district has a person to make this law work, called the "**homeless education liaison**." This person may or may not know the law but it is the best place to start.
- Your child's caregiver **does not need to be a legal guardian** to take care of your kids and to get them in school. It helps if this person has something in writing from you saying that you are letting her or him take care of your child.
- If the school does not know about the law or they do not understand how it works, you or your child's caregiver should **call the toll-free number on this flyer for fast, free help**.
- The school must **respect your privacy** and may not treat your child differently because they are homeless.



**REACH** is a program of  
**HEAR US Inc.**

... giving voice & visibility to  
homeless kids...

**WWW.HEARUS.US**

1163 E Ogden Ave. #705-329 VM/Fax 630/225-5512  
Naperville, IL 60563 E-mail: [diane@hearus.us](mailto:diane@hearus.us)

## PLEASE HELP!

I'm having trouble with getting children into school because of family troubles.

**NOTE:** Someone will call who may give you/your child's caregiver advice to help with a school problem. **No money or other services will be given. It will not cost you money.**

**You may also call the number on this flyer.**

**CHECK THE BOX TO TELL ABOUT YOUR PROBLEM.**

My child cannot get into school.

My child is in school but we need other school help.

OTHER—please describe briefly

***DON'T WRITE PRIVATE INFORMATION ON THIS CARD.***

**The best way to contact me/my children's caregiver is:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR HELP WITH SCHOOL  
1-800-308-2145**

LOCAL CONTACT #: