

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022
ANNUAL NOTICE
HOMELESS CHILDREN

The McKinney-Vento Act defines children and youth who are homeless (twenty-one years of age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:
 - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as double-up);
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - abandoned in hospitals; or
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings,
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings,
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, the School District of River Falls provides the following assurances to parents of homeless children:

- The local district staff contact for homeless children is Jackie Steinhoff, Director of Student Services, 715-425-1800 x1115, jackie.steinhoff@rfsd.k12.wi.us. You may also contact your school counselor.
- There shall be immediate enrollment and school participation, even if educational and medical records and proof of residency are not available.
- All educational opportunities and related opportunities for homeless students (preschool to age 21), including unaccompanied youth, shall be the same as for the general student population.
- Enrollment and transportation rights, including transportation to the school of origin. “School of origin” is defined as the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- Written explanation of a child or youth’s school placement, other than school of origin or the school requested by the parent, with the right to appeal within the local dispute resolution process.
- Meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in the education of their children. These shall include: special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.

Please contact Jackie Steinhoff, Homeless Liaison at 715-425-1800x1115, or your building school counselor for additional information.