

www.sccfl.org/schoolhouselink

If you need more information about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/youth.pdf>

- You are an unaccompanied youth if you are not living with a parent or legal guardian, and you have not graduated from high school, but you:
- Have run away from home.
- Have been thrown out of your home.
- Have been left on your own by a parent or guardian.
- Have moved in with friends or relatives because you don't have a space to stay.
- Are staying at a shelter, in a car, park, motel, train/bus station.

National Hotlines

National Runaway Switchboard Hotline (24 hours) 1-800-RUNAWAY (786-2929), www.1800runaway.org
Covenant House Runaway Hotline (24 hours) 1-800-999-9999, www.covenanthouse.org

Where can I stay tonight?

Sarasota County, youth ages 10-17 Youth Shelter 941-955-5596
Sarasota County, youth ages over 18 The Salvation Army 941-954-4673
Charlotte County Shelter 941-627-4313
In addition to Schoolhouse Link, you can also get help from your school guidance counselor, the school social worker, the school nurse or a teacher you trust.

Who else can I talk to at school?

Schoolhouse Link 941-923-6100

MORE HELP IS AVAILABLE



ON YOUR OWN

School Services for Unaccompanied Youth



Through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, a federal law, you have rights to help you stay in school and succeed. As an unaccompanied youth, regardless of where you go to school, each school district has a local Homeless Education Liaison to help you. Schoolhouse Link is the contracted homeless liaison in Sarasota County.



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AS AN UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH, YOU HAVE CERTAIN SCHOOL CHOICES

- You may continue to attend, or re-enroll at the public school you attended when you became homeless, or the last school you attended after you became homeless. (Both are the **school of origin**.)

Transportation to and from the school of origin will be provided by your school district.

- Or you may transfer to the school that serves the area where you are now staying (the **attendance area school**).

WHO CAN HELP ME ENROLL IN SCHOOL?

You may have trouble enrolling in school by yourself. Your school district has contracted with **Schoolhouse Link**, who is there to help you. You may enroll even if you do not have school and health records or an adult with you.

HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM LIAISON CONTACT INFORMATION:

Schoolhouse Link
Attn: Youth Education Advocate
4440 Beneva Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34233
941-923-6100

THE HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL

What are my rights and services in the Homeless Education Program?

Your Schoolhouse Link Liaison will:

- Provide you with information about your rights.
- Help you decide which school to attend.
- Inform you of your right to transportation and help you get transportation, if needed.
- Help you when you need an adult to sign forms for you, such as for absences.

The Schoolhouse Link Youth Education Advocate will also give you information about services, including:

- free/reduced meals
- backpacks and school supplies
- emergency clothing & hygiene supplies
- bus pass or transportation to school if needed
- birth certificate or Florida identification cards
- food stamp application
- community referrals
- Information on shelter and housing programs
- FAFSA application, college scholarships, GED info & fees
- fee waivers for selected school activities and graduation
- referrals to low-cost or free health services; and
- preschool programs, if you have a young child.

What if I have a problem with my rights and services?

You have the right to discuss problems about services you receive with the Schoolhouse Link Liaison. The school must continue to provide the services until your problem is solved. The Schoolhouse Link Liaison must also explain the problem-solving process (dispute process). You should also receive information about low-cost or free legal aid, and other programs in the community to help you.

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