

EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE GUIDE

For Families Living in Shelter

Students living in shelter have rights under the McKinney-Vento Act. This brochure describes options and services available to your children.

QUESTIONS ABOUT EDUCATION?

AT PATH: Talk to DOE staff on the lower level M-F, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. 718-716-7722	AT SHELTER: Talk to the DOE Family Assistant	ON THE PHONE: Call the STH Regional Manager in your borough http://bit.ly/nycdoesth	AT SCHOOL: Speak to your child's teacher, parent coordinator or STH liaison
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OPTIONS FOR YOUR CHILD

Did you know that 90% of a child's brain has developed by age 5? Families in DHS shelters are eligible for all programs for children six-weeks to four-years-old and can enroll anytime.

➤ These programs offer:

- Quality programming and family engagement
- Opportunities for children to play, learn, and build skills
- Safe, positive learning environments
- Care five days a week, up to ten hours a day, 12 months of the year
- Experienced and certified teachers
- Free, nutritious meals and snacks
- Care for children with special needs
- Access to community resources such as dental and medical screenings

➤ To learn more, visit the following or call 718-935-2009.

- **EarlyLearn** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/earlylearn-nyc>
- **Head Start** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/head-start>
- **3-K** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/3k>
- **Pre-K** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/pre-k>

Your child has options for school. Your child has the right to stay in their current school or choose to enroll in a local zoned school.

- Shelter staff can help you ensure as much educational continuity as possible for your child. To discuss transferring to a shelter closer to your child's school, please speak to shelter staff.
- If you are interested in transferring your child to another school:
 - **Grade K–8** Connect with the zoned school near your shelter. To find your zoned school, call 311 or visit <https://schoolsearch.schools.nyc>
 - **Grade 9–12** Visit a Family Welcome Center. To find a Family Welcome Center, call 311 or visit <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers>

Schools can provide supplies, clothing, and more

- All schools get Title I funds, which can be used to provide your child with school supplies, school clothing, uniforms, and other services. For more information, contact the STH Liaison at your child's school or contact the STH Regional Manager <http://bit.ly/nycdoesth>
- Most shelters hand out free backpacks and supplies in August.

Free transportation is available. Students in shelter are eligible for free MetroCards, and students in grades K-6 can get busing.

For Students:

- ▶ Grades K-6 are eligible for busing. Let shelter staff know if you want busing for your child.
- ▶ Schools provide free MetroCards for students to get to and from school. Students in DHS shelters can receive a MetroCard from the DOE Family Assistant at their shelter to help get to school.
- ▶ If your child has busing on his or her Individualized Education Program (IEP), call your child's school immediately to update your address so they can continue to receive busing services.

For Parents/Guardians:

- ▶ The DOE staff at PATH can give parents a free MetroCard to take their children to school.
- ▶ Monthly MetroCards are available to you at your child's school. For assistance, contact the STH liaison at your child's school or contact the STH Regional Manager in your borough <http://bit.ly/nycdoesth>

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Do you think your child may need special education services at school?

- ▶ Children with disabilities are entitled to services, accommodations, and specially designed instruction.
 - **Birth to 3-years-old** Free early intervention services are available for babies. Call 311 for more information.
 - **3-5 years old** Free preschool education services are available. Call 718-935-2007 or email specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov for information about how to request an evaluation.
 - **Ages 6-21 years-old** Talk to your child's teacher about available classroom supports. If you feel your child may require special education services, speak to school staff about requesting an evaluation.
- ▶ For more information, call the Special Education Hotline at (718) 935-2007 or go to <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/preschool-to-age-21/special-education-in-nyc>
- ▶ If your child is in a charter school or private school, or preschool, contact the Committee on Special Education (CSE) office in your school district <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/help/committees-on-special-education>

Does your child learn best in a language other than English?

- ▶ Your child may be eligible for one of the DOE's English Language Learners programs. Learn more by visiting www.schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL.
- ▶ For translation or interpretation services, call the DOE's Translation and Interpretation Unit at (718) 935-2013 or email hello@schools.nyc.gov.

Students are excused from PATH for exams.

- ▶ Any student at PATH on a standardized test date (Regents Exam, AP exam, SAT, statewide assessments in math and ELA for grades 3-8) must be excused and allowed to leave PATH to take their exam.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call or email the Students in Temporary Housing Regional Manager in your district
<http://bit.ly/nycdoesth>

Bronx

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