



FIT (Families In Transition) Program

2021-2022

Mollie Cressey, Nassau County School District's Homeless Liaison
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The McKinney-Vento Act

Who is eligible to receive help under the McKinney-Vento (MV) Act?

Public school students who have lost housing and now live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, campground, or temporary trailer; on the street; doubled-up with family or friends; or in another type of temporary or inadequate housing because of loss of housing are eligible.

What rights do eligible students have under the MV Act?

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children and youth in homeless situations have the right to: 1) go to school (no matter where they live or how long they have lived there), 2) attend either the zoned school or the former school/School of Origin (if this is in their best interest) and receive transportation comparable to housed students, 3) enroll in school immediately (even if

they are missing records or other documents normally required for enrollment), 4) attend classes and participate fully in all school activities while the school gathers records, and 5) have access to the same programs and services that are available to other students.

MV students who obtain housing in another school zone are allowed to stay in their school to finish the year if that is in the child's best interest, and may even be provided with transportation.

Nassau County's Additional Services

Call or email Mollie Cressey with issues pertaining to **Attendance, Academics & other school-related needs.**

FREE CLOTHES-

FIT students, their families, & host families are welcome to come to the Clothes Closet for free clothes. It is open on Mondays (except for major holidays) from noon until 6pm. It is located at 850935 US Hwy 17, Yulee (across the street from Pine Forest Motel). You may also request to have items sent to your student at school by calling and giving size and preference information. Your family may shop once each month and choose up to 5 outfits each. (There are limits.) Shoes, socks, underwear and toiletries are also available.

FOOD SERVICE-

Upon confirmation of eligibility and enrollment in the FIT program, students receive free breakfast and lunch without completing additional applications.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES-

FIT students will be provided with available school supplies upon request by parents and teachers. They can be sent to the school(s).

AR (Accelerated Reader) Library-

The most important "homework" that your child can do to ensure success in school is to read, read, read. Becoming a better reader requires daily practice at your child's independent reading level. You or your child's teacher may request books for your child. (Please supply your child's current AR level.) These books do NOT need to be returned. At times, rewards can be made available for meeting pre-determined reading goals.

SCHOOL FEE PAYMENTS-

Community donations are sought by the Liaison and are used for payment of school-related needs (as funds are available) for field trips (\$50 limit per

year unless used as a reward for academic/behavior plan), high school senior expenses, and other academic needs.

TUTORING - students identified by teachers as falling behind may be eligible for transportation home from tutoring, after school or remote tutoring by a teacher.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES-

Funds are currently available to help with fees, equipment, clothing, transportation, etc. Call to discuss your need. Fulfilling these requests may take several weeks. Don't delay in calling.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS-details - p.2.

NOTE- non-required resources may be suspended due to irregular school attendance., including required minutes per day.

Students are enrolled in the FIT program for one school year. Re-enrollment is required for the new school year and is based on the student's living status at that time. Call to re-enroll after July 1st, if eligible.

If you are moving, remember to:

- *try to move at the end of a grading period or school year
- *allow your child to say good-bye to friends and teachers
- *discuss with the Homeless Liaison the possibility of keeping your child in the same school
- *if transferring, enroll your child in the new school ASAP
- *inform your child's school of your plans
- *ask for a copy of your child's school records

Your child has the right to finish the school year in the same school, even after housing is found.

Your child needs to be in school every school day!