



## 2. Identification

*Each local education agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(j)(ii), shall ensure that –*

- *Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies:*

[722(g)(6)(A)(i)]

## 2. Identification

*Determinations of homelessness should be made on a case-by-case basis.*



Permanence/Transition



Hardship



Context

*The term 'homeless children and youth' (A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.*

*[725(2)(A)]*

- Fixed – one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change
- Regular – one which is used on a regular (i.e. nightly) basis
- Adequate – one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.



## 2. Identification

*The term 'homeless children and youth' includes –*

- (i) Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.*
- (ii) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.*
- (iii) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and*
- (iv) Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).*

*[725(2)(B)(i-iv)]*



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### Unaccompanied Youth

*The term 'unaccompanied youth' includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.*

[725(6)]

#### ■ *Examples*

- Runaways living in shelters, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing.
- Children and youth denied housing by their families.
- School-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

### Undocumented children & youth

Undocumented children and youth have the same right to attend public primary and secondary schools as U.S. citizens and are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act to the same extent as other children and youth.

Plyler v. Doe

[457 U.S. 202 (1982)]



## 2. Identification

### Identification Strategies

- Coordinate with **community service agencies**, such as shelters, soup kitchens, food banks, street outreach teams, drop-in centers, welfare departments, housing departments, public health departments, and faith-based organizations.
- Provide **outreach materials and posters** where there is a frequent influx of low-income families and youth in high-risk situations, including motels and campgrounds.
- Develop relationships with **truancy officials** and/or other attendance officers.
- Provide **awareness activities for school staff** (registrars, secretaries, school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, etc.).
- Make special efforts to **identify preschool children**, including asking about the siblings of school-age children.
- **Avoid using the word "homeless"** in initial contacts with school personnel, families, or youth.