

Venice Community Unit School District #3 –

### **Education of Homeless Children**

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, as provided to other children and youths. A homeless child may attend the District school that the child attended when permanently housed or in which the child was last enrolled. A homeless child living in any District school's attendance area may attend that school.

- **Homeless Children – Who are they?**

A homeless child is one who lacks a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime place of abode.” In general, children or youth living in welfare hotels, transitional housing, shelters, the streets, cars, abandoned buildings, and other inadequate accommodations are considered homeless. This includes the following groups:

- **Children in Shelters**
- **Doubled-up Children** (living with another family due to lack of a permanent residence)
- **Migratory Children** (if accommodations are not fit for habitation)
- **Runaways** (children who have run away from home and live in a shelter or inadequate accommodations, even if parents are willing to provide a home)
- **Throwaways** (children whose parents or guardians will not permit them to live at home)
- **Homeless Children – What are their rights?**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, as part of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act ensures homeless children the right to:

- a free, appropriate public education
- choose either to stay in the school of origin (school last attended or school attended when child lost permanent housing) or attend the school nearest their shelter or temporary home
  - immediate enrollment even when medical records cannot be produced at time of enrollment
- receive assistance with transportation if needed
- a priority to preschool programs

Homeless Youth and Children Education Program – Local Liaison:  
Toni Chandler, 274-7953, ext.11