

# Tips for Parents

- **Know your educational rights.**
  - Enroll your child in school. You can enroll your child even if you are missing immunization records, school records, and proof of residency.
  - Let the school know where you want the child to attend school. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act gives your child the right to stay at the current school even if the family's homeless situation means you are no longer in the attendance zone. The school would be called the school of origin, and school districts must let students stay, to the extent feasible. Your child also may attend the school where you are currently living.
- **Keep copies of critical records such as immunizations, Social Security number, health physicals, and individualized education programs (IEPs). Ask someone you trust to keep a set of records for you if your current living arrangements make this difficult.**
- **Maintain high expectations for your child.**
- **Ask questions, such as the following:**
  - Is transportation available for my child to stay in the same school?
  - Will someone help us transfer records quickly when we move?
  - Is there a pre-school program?
  - Is there a summer school program?
  - Are there any special classes that would benefit a talent my child has?
  - Should my child be tested for special education?
  - Are there sports, music, or other activities in which my child can participate?
  - Can my child receive free meals at school?
  - Are school supplies available?
  - Will my child be able to go on field trips even if we are unable to pay?
  - Are there after-school study halls or tutoring available?