



HOMELESS EDUCATION PLAN

Access to Services

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act removes barriers to the access or success of homeless children and youth in school. The act defines homeless children and youth as those without a regular, fixed, and adequate nighttime residence. Homeless children and youth will be provided the opportunity to receive a free and appropriate public education regardless of their residency status. The program will ensure that these students are afforded equal access to academic and other services that will allow them to meet the same challenging state achievement standards as non-homeless students.

Identification

Homeless children and youth are often undetected. The system includes a residency questionnaire during the annual registration process to help identify students who may potentially be experiencing homelessness. The system will conduct training sessions with the appropriate school personnel to inform them of methods of identifying homeless children without stigmatizing terminology.

Enrollment

The program provides procedural guidelines to ensure that homeless students are not denied enrollment due to the lack of registration documentation at the time of enrollment. Homeless children and youth will be enrolled immediately, pending the obtainment of necessary documents. The parent or guardian may enroll a homeless child or youth with or without proof of residency, birth certificate, social security number, immunization record, or school records. The school counselor, registrar, and liaison will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with appropriate assistance in obtaining the necessary records and documents for enrollment. Enrollment without the required immunization record will be pending receipt or acquisition of immunization documentation. The existing method of assigning a student number will be utilized when a student enrolls without a social security number.

Transportation

The homeless education program makes every effort to provide homeless children and youth with a stable school environment. Students are enrolled in the school of their origin and provided with transportation to and from the school of their origin. Provisions are

made for parents, guardians, or unaccompanied youth who decline enrollment in the school of their origin.

Unaccompanied Youth Identification and Unaccompanied Youth Enrollment

School staff that notice common signs of homelessness for any student are encouraged to notify the school counselor or Homeless Liaison. An unaccompanied youth may enroll himself/herself. In this case, the school principal or designee will immediately contact the Central Office Homeless Liaison to report the enrollment of unaccompanied youth. The school will provide the youth with proper assistance in language that the student understands. The Central Office Homeless Liaison will assist the homeless unaccompanied youth in obtaining eligible educational services.

Intrastate (In-State) and Interstate (Out-of-State) Records

The school counselor, registrar, and liaison will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with appropriate assistance in obtaining the necessary records and documents for enrollment.

Dissemination Procedures for Homeless Information

Informational flyers and posters are located near the front entrances of each school building. All school staff are required to be trained annually about McKinney-Vento. Liaison disseminates flyers about the homeless education program to community stakeholders (churches, motels, hotels, etc.).

Data Reporting

The program provides for a homeless liaison who will ensure program implementation, maintain accurate data records, and coordinate efforts to ensure that homeless children and youth, including preschool-age children, are provided the opportunity for academic success.

Dispute Resolution Regarding the Enrollment of Homeless Students

FILE: JBCC

If a parent disputes the homeless status of his/her student, the complainant must file a School Enrollment Dispute form with the school in which the student is presently enrolled. The principal of this school will notify the Superintendent's designated Homeless Liaison of the dispute. The Homeless Liaison will expeditiously take steps to resolve the dispute. If the Homeless Liaison's enrollment decision is contrary to the wishes of the student or student's parent/guardian, the school system will provide the parent/guardian, or unaccompanied student with a written explanation of the decision and statement of the right to appeal. If the dispute cannot be settled by the Homeless Liaison, the dispute will be sent to the assistant superintendent; if the assistant superintendent cannot resolve the dispute, then it will be forwarded to the superintendent. The liaison will assist the complainant in seeking technical assistance from an appropriate service agency. During the dispute resolution process, the student shall be enrolled and/or remain

enrolled in the school where the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student desires. The term “enrolled” includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities.