

HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Board will comply with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 (the “McKinney-Vento Act”) providing for a free, appropriate education, including public preschool, to each homeless child or youth.

1. The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes -
 - a. Children and youth who are:
 - (1) Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*);
 - (2) Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - (3) Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - (4) Abandoned in hospitals; or
 - (5) Awaiting foster care placement.
 - b. Children and youth 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;
 - c. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - d. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
2. Specific Duties of the Board:

The Board shall ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the Board is responsible for fulfilling the following duties to homeless children and youths:

- a. According to the child's best interest, continuing the child's education in the school of origin unless contrary to the wishes of the child or child's parent or guardian;
- b. Providing for the immediate enrollment of a homeless child and the maintenance of student records for the child;
- c. Providing services comparable to what other students receive in the areas of transportation, Title I programs, children with disabilities, limited English proficiency, vocational and technical education, gifted and talented education, and school nutrition;
- d. Coordinating services to homeless children with other schools, local social service agencies, and programs that assist homeless children and youth and their families;
- e. Establishing a local liaison for homeless children and youth; and
- f. Reviewing and revising policies to ensure that no policies act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths.

3. School Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth:

The liaison for homeless children and youth is the designee. The liaison is responsible for ensuring that:

- a. Homeless children are identified by School personnel and other agencies;
- b. Homeless children are enrolled in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in the School;
- c. Homeless children and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible and referrals for other appropriate services including health care, dental, and mental health;
- d. Parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and a meaningful opportunity to participate in educational opportunities;
- e. The liaison provides assistance to an unaccompanied youth with placement or enrollment decisions, considers their views, and notifies the unaccompanied youth of the right to appeal such decisions;

- f. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is provided to areas where such children receive services, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
 - g. Parents or guardians of homeless children are fully informed of and assisted with accessing transportation services available to the child, including transportation to the child's school of origin; and
 - h. Disputes over enrollment decisions are resolved as quickly as possible after receiving notice of the dispute.
- 4. Procedure for Enrollment Decisions and Dispute Resolution:

If the Head Administrator or his/her designee determines that the best interest of the child requires the child to be enrolled in a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, the Head Administrator or his/her designee shall provide a written explanation to the child's parent or guardian, including the right to appeal such determination to the liaison.

The liaison shall inform the parent or guardian that they can provide written or oral documentation to support their position. The liaison shall review the issue and documentation and issue a decision in writing to the parent or guardian.

If the dispute is not resolved, the liaison shall refer the dispute to the Ohio Department of Education Homeless Consultant for the purpose of utilizing the resolution process on the state level.

LEGAL REFS: R.C. 3301.60; 3313.64

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11421 *et seq.*

Adopted: September 13, 2023