

Information on Homeless – McKinney-Vento Education

Your child(ren) may be eligible for assistance through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The application process is simple and all information is kept confidential. Forms are available at the Enrollment Center for new students and through your school counselor's office or the district homeless liaison for currently enrolled students.

All children have a right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes and school activities while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this and it is feasible.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

Educationally qualifying the family for homeless:

- Those who lack a fixed, adequate, stable nighttime residence.
- Those sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
- Those living in motels, trailer parks, camp grounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard living conditions or a similar setting.
- Those living in emergency shelter or transitional shelters.
- Those who are awaiting foster-care placement.
- Unaccompanied youth and/or migratory children living in the above conditions.

What is required of the school?

- Student must be allowed to enroll immediately, even if the required documents are not available. The terms "enroll" and "enrollment" includes attending classes and participating fully in all school activities.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.
 - *If the school district believes that the school(s) you select is not in the best interest of your child(ren) then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your rights to appeal its decision. Parent/Guardians/Students who feel that their request to enroll has been incorrectly denied or wish to contest their child's placement should be encouraged to contact the district liaison for consultation. If the dispute is not resolved at this stage, they will be asked to submit their case in writing to the Executive Director of Federal Programs. Should the final result of the district dispute process be unsatisfactory to the parent/guardian/student, they may appeal the district's final decision by contacting the State Homeless Liaison at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.*
- Student must be transported to the school of origin (if feasible).
- Student must be allowed to participate in any program for which they qualify.
- Set aside some of their Title I funds to service Title X students.
- Have a designated homeless liaison who is in charge of getting support for identified students:

District Homeless Liaison ensures that: Homeless children and youths receive the services they need. Required in all LEAs regardless of subgrant status, the liaison is the primary contact between homeless families, school and LEA staff, shelter workers, and other service providers.

In 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A), the McKinney-Vento Act lists the responsibilities of the local liaison. The law states that local liaisons will ensure that

- ✓ *homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination with other agencies;*

- ✓ *homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school;*
- ✓ *homeless families, children, and youths have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start programs, early intervention services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA;*
- ✓ *homeless families, children, and youths receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;*
- ✓ *the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;*
- ✓ *public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth;*
- ✓ *enrollment disputes are mediated according to 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E);*
- ✓ *the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied homeless youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin;*
- ✓ *school personnel who serve homeless children and youths receive professional development and other support;*
- ✓ *unaccompanied homeless youths are enrolled in school, have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards established for other students, and are informed of their status as independent students and assisted to receive verification of their status for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).*

OR THIS IS A STATEMENT FROM NORMAN PS vs. the large list above *“This person’s duties involve training school staff in identification procedures, arranging services and arbitrating disputes that may arise.”*

What services could be provided?

- Enrollment assistance
- School clothing assistance
- School supplies/backpacks
- Free breakfast/lunch
- Hygiene items
- Transportation to/from school of origin
- School program fees and dues
- ACT/SAT fees
- Community referrals

District Homeless Liaison

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