Homeless Education Assistance

**McKinney-Vento Act Definition of Homeless**

Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fix, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and include children and youth who meet any of the following criteria:

a. Share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason

b. Live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations.

c. Live in emergency or transitional shelters

d. Are abandoned in hospitals

e. Have a primary night time residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinary used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, or

f. Live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.

Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Act, an unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

**HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE**

Adrian Public Schools abides by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Under this act, children and youth in transition have access to appropriate public education and given a full opportunity to be academically successful. Adrian Public Schools will ensure that children and youth in transition are free from discrimination, segregation and harassment.
Identification Process
Children and youth in transition, or homeless, in the Adrian Public School District will be identified through the Families in Transition (FIT) form, and referred to the Homeless Education Liaison. These students have a right to remain in their respective schools of origin when feasible.

Enrollment
The District has an obligation to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students. Students in transition, or homeless, will be enrolled immediately upon identification. Enrollment will not be denied or delayed due to lack of any document normally required for enrollment. The Homeless Education Liaison will collaborate with Head Start Programs and any other APS administered preschool programs to ensure that children in transition can enroll immediately in those programs.

Transportation
All students in transition, or homeless, are eligible for transportation services comparable to non-homeless students. Additional transportation may be provided in coordination with the homeless liaison.

a. If the student continues to live in the District, where the school of origin is located, transportation will be provided or arranged for the student’s transportation to or from the school of origin.

b. If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, through continuing his/her education at the school of origin, the District and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method of apportion responsibility and cost for transportation to the school of origin. If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and cost will be shared equally.

c. When the student obtains permanent housing, transportation shall be provided to and from the school of origin until the end of the school year.

Comparable Services
Children and youth that are in transition or homeless are eligible for support services comparable to those received by other students including: Title I services, English as a Second Language services, vocational and technical education programs, school nutrition programs, before and after school programs, special education services and Section 504 accommodations.

Title I
All students in transition, or homeless, are immediately eligible for Title I support services even if they do not attend a Title I building. Title I funds may be used to serve these students in non-Title I buildings.

Nutrition Programs
All students in transition, or homeless, will immediately receive free breakfast and lunch.
**Training**
Training about McKinney-Vento Legislation and its implications will be ongoing in the district and will be designed to increase staff awareness of homelessness, facilitate immediate enrollment and the provision of support services to ensure compliance with this policy and increase sensitivity to children and youth in transition.

**Homeless Children in Preschool**
Homeless preschool-aged children and their families shall be provided equal access to the education services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs, including Head Start programs, administered by the District. Additionally, the homeless child must remain in the public preschool of origin, unless a determination is made that it is not in the best interest of the child. When making such a decision on the student’s best interest, the District should take into consideration the child’s attachment to the school, travel time to and from school, and the impact of the school climate on the child, including school safety, quality and availability of services to meet the child’s needs.

**Dispute Resolution**
Homeless families and youths have the right to challenge placement and enrollment decisions. If a dispute arises between a school and a parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth regarding eligibility, school selection, or enrollment of a homeless student, the District must follow its dispute resolution procedures, consistent with the State’s procedures. If such a dispute occurs, the District will immediately enroll the homeless student in the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute, including all appeals. The student will receive all services for which they are eligible until all disputes and appeals are resolved.

**Public Notice**
The District shall post public notice of education rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness in each school. In addition, the District shall post public notice of the McKinney-Vento rights in places that homeless populations frequent, such as shelters, food shelters, and libraries in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians and unaccompanied youths.

**Records**
The local liaison will assist the homeless students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) or unaccompanied homeless students in their efforts to provide documentation to meet State and local requirements for entry into school.

Policy Board Action (New)
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