

Chapter 5 – Students

HOMELESS STUDENTS 5.14

I. Homeless children who live within the county shall be admitted to school in the District, shall have access to free public education including preschool, shall be given the opportunity to meet local and state academic achievement standards, and shall be included in state and District assessments and accountability systems.

II. Definitions

A. Homeless Child

One who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who:

1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
2. Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
3. Are living in emergency or transitional shelters, abandoned in hospitals, or awaiting foster care placement;
4. Have a primary nighttime residence that is:
 - a. A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
 - b. An institution providing temporary residence for persons who are to be institutionalized; or
 - c. A public or private place not designed or normally used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
5. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
6. Are migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described in II.A.1 through II.A.5.

B. Unaccompanied Youth – A student who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

C. School of Origin – The school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school where the child or youth was last enrolled.

D. Enroll and Enrollment – Attending school and participating fully in school activities.

E. Immediate – Without delay.

F. Parent – Parent or guardian of a student.

G. Liaison – The staff person designated by the District as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

- III. The District shall identify homeless students as defined by federal and state law.
- IV. The District shall seek to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth.
- V. The District shall ensure the immediate enrollment of homeless students.
 - A. The District shall assist homeless children to provide documentation to meet state and local requirements for entry into school.
 - B. A homeless child shall be given a thirty (30) school day exemption to provide proof of age, certification of a school-entry health examination, proof of immunization and other documentation required for enrollment.
- VI. Each homeless student shall be provided the services that are available for all other students including transportation, school nutrition programs, before and after school programs, and education services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria such as exceptional education, gifted education, vocational and technical programs, preschool programs, Title I, and limited English proficiency programs.
- VII. Homeless students shall be given meaningful opportunities to succeed in school.
- VIII. Homeless students shall be allowed to remain in the school of origin to the extent feasible, unless this is contrary to the wishes of the parents.
- IX. Homeless students and/or parents shall have the right to dispute school assignment if placement is other than the school of origin. The District shall ensure that unaccompanied youth and the parents of homeless students are notified of the right to remain in the school of origin and of the dispute process.
- X. If requested by the parent of a homeless child or by the liaison on behalf of an unaccompanied youth, the District shall be responsible for providing transportation to and from the school of origin throughout the duration of homelessness. The District shall share the responsibility for transportation if a homeless student begins living in another district in a homeless status and continues to attend the school of origin.
- XI. Homeless students shall not be stigmatized, segregated, or separated in any educational program on the basis of their homeless status.
- XII. The District shall follow the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1003.21, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: 1001.21, 1001.43, 1003.01, 1003.21, 1003.22, F.S.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001, P.L. 107-110

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