

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

580AP

Education of Homeless Students

Supplement B-

Information for Families Experiencing Transitional or Temporary Housing

Date Approved: April 4, 2016

If your family is staying in a shelter, hotel, or temporarily with others because you've lost or cannot afford your own housing, we can help make sure your child has a stable and high-quality school experience. Robbinsdale Area Schools (RAS) is guided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This federal law provides students experiencing a transitional living situation or homelessness with certain rights so they have access to opportunities that will help them meet the same high academic standards expected of all students in our district.

The **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act** defines homelessness as children and youth "who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

This includes children and youth living in the following situations:

- shelters or transitional housing programs
- motels, hotels or weekly rate housing
- doubled up with friends or relatives because family cannot find or afford housing
- abandoned buildings, public space, car or other inadequate accommodation
- awaiting foster care placement (prior to court hearing)

Students who experience homelessness have certain rights provided by the federal McKinney-Vento Act. Because your child has been identified as eligible, he/she has the right to:

- go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there;
- stay in the school that he/she was attending before becoming homeless or the school he/she last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible;
- enroll in school immediately, even if you do not have all the paperwork, such as your child's school or medical records;
- access the same special programs and services that are provided to other children, including special education, migrant education and vocational education;
- receive the same public education that is provided to other children, including preschool. Your child cannot be separated from the mainstream school environment because he/she is homeless. He/she cannot be segregated in a separate school, separate programs within a school or separate settings within a school.

Transportation: RAS will be able to provide transportation to and from the student's school of origin (the school that he/she was attending before becoming homeless or the school he/she last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible)

****If your child is assigned to a school not of your choosing, you will be notified in writing. You have the right to appeal the district's decision regarding the school to which your child has been assigned. Your child has the right to go to the school of your choice while the dispute is being resolved.**