

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless student liaison

The liaison appointed by the Superintendent shall work to identify homeless children and facilitate each homeless child's access to and success in school. On or before the pupil enrollment count day, the liaison shall report the number of homeless students enrolled in Colorado Springs School District 11 (the District) to the Colorado Department of Education.

The primary functions of the liaison shall be to mediate disputes concerning school enrollment, assist in making transportation arrangements, assist in requesting the student's records, provide information and give referrals on services and opportunities, and assist any homeless child who is not in the custody of a parent or guardian with enrollment decisions.

Enrollment

A homeless student is deemed to reside, and may enroll and attend school in:

- the district where the child is presently located, or
- the district in which the student attended school previous to becoming homeless.

Enrollment shall be immediate even if the student lacks records routinely required prior to enrollment. The school shall make arrangements to obtain any necessary records and to have the student receive any necessary immunizations. When feasible the District shall seek immunization through no- or low-cost health care providers. If an expense is incurred, the District shall seek reimbursement through Medicaid if possible.

If a homeless student becomes permanently housed outside the District during the school year, the student shall no longer be considered homeless and may continue enrollment in the District for the remainder of the school year. Parents/guardians of formerly homeless students may apply for School Choice-Open Enrollment (see Board Policy JFBA/JFBB).

Tuition and Fees

Students defined in state and federal law as homeless children shall be admitted without payment of tuition or applicable fees.

Enrollment determination

Enrollment determinations will be made by the District's designated homeless liaison in consultation with parents/guardians and homeless unaccompanied youth.

Notice of determination and appeal

If, after conducting a best interest determination, the liaison determines that it is not in the best interest of the student to attend the school of origin or school requested, the parent/guardian/

unaccompanied youth will be notified in writing with an explanation and information regarding the right to appeal the District's decision.

Enrollment disputes

If an enrollment dispute arises between the student's custodial parent/guardian (or the student not in custody of a parent/guardian) and the District, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school selected by the parent/guardian or student until the dispute is resolved.

The parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may appeal an enrollment determination made by this District to the District's homeless student liaison after receiving the written determination and notice of right-to-appeal.

The liaison shall issue a written decision on the dispute within 10 days of the receipt of the appeal and hand deliver a written decision and notice of right-to-appeal to the parent/guardian (or student, if applicable).

If the dispute is not resolved, the liaison will contact the State McKinney-Vento Coordinator. The State Coordinator will attempt to resolve the dispute, however, if this is unsuccessful, a team at the State will review the complaint and produce a decision within 15 business days which will be mailed to all parties. The decision of the team is final.

Transportation

Subsequent to a determination that the student shall attend a school in this District, a request for transportation may be made by the student, or by the student's custodial parent/guardian.

If the student qualifies for transportation under McKinney-Vento and is located in the District, the District shall provide or arrange for the student's transportation to and from school in accordance with District transportation policies. All transportation services shall be comparable to those provided for other students in the District.

If the student is located outside of the District but a determination has been made that the student shall attend school in the District, both this District and the district where the student is located must either agree on a method to apportion cost and responsibility for the student's transportation or share the cost and responsibility equally.

Adopted October 11, 2017
Reviewed November 11, 2020

LEGAL REFS.: 42 U.S.C. 11431, et seq. (McKinney Homeless Assistance Act)
 C.R.S. 22-1-102.5
 C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(dd)
 C.R.S. 22-33-103.5
 C.R.S. 26-5.7-101 et seq.