# Moore Public Schools

## Homeless Education

**Who is considered homeless?**

- Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the term "homeless children and youths" mean individuals that lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youths:
    - Who are sharing of housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are in abandoned hospitals;
    - Who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
    - Who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
    - Who are migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances.

**What protections does the McKinney-Vento Act require for homeless children and youths?**

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) must review and revise policies and procedures to remove barriers to a high-quality education for homeless children and youths. Every SEA must have an Office of the State Coordinator to oversee implementation of the Act, and every LEA must designate a local liaison able to carry out their duties to ensure that homeless students are identified and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act also requires that: o homeless students who move have the right to remain in their schools of origin (i.e., the school the student attended when permanently housed or in which the student was last enrolled, which includes preschools) if that is in the student's best interest;

- if it is in the student's best interest to change schools, homeless students must be immediately enrolled in a new school, even if they do not have the records normally required for enrollment;
- transportation must be provided to or from a student's school of origin, at the request of a parent, guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the local liaison;
- homeless students must have access to all programs and services for which they are eligible, including special education services, preschool, school nutrition programs, language assistance for English learners, career and technical education, gifted and talented programs, magnet schools, charter schools, summer learning, online learning, and before-and after-school care;
- unaccompanied youths must be accorded specific protections, including immediate enrollment in school without proof of guardianship; and
- Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youths have the right to dispute an eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision.

Source: United States Department of Education, 2017.

**What is the role of the homeless liaison?**

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the district liaison must ensure that:

- Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- Homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the school or schools of the LEA;
- Homeless families and homeless children and youths have access to and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs), early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA, and other preschool programs administered by the LEA;
- Homeless families and homeless children and youths receive referrals to health, dental, mental health, and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;
- Parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of 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 students is disseminated in locations frequented by parents and guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians and unaccompanied youths;
- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the requirements of the McKinneyVento Act;
- Parents and guardians and unaccompanied youths are fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to and from the school of origin and are assisted in accessing transportation services;
- School personnel receive professional development and other support; and
- Unaccompanied youths are enrolled in school, have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths, are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1087vv), and their right to receive verification of this status from the local liaison.

Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act and effective October 1, 2016

**If you have any questions regarding education for homeless students, please contact your Moore Public Schools liaison, Susan Curtis, at 405-735-4236 or susancurtis@mooreschools.com**