

Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

To the extent practical and as required by law, the corporation will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided corporation services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Title I, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.

McKinney-Vento Liaison

The Superintendent will appoint a Corporation McKinney-Vento Homeless liaison who will perform the duties assigned by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Corporation liaison will coordinate and collaborate with the State McKinney-Vento Liaison as well as with school and community personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.

The Corporation McKinney-Vento Liaison shall post public notice of educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness in each school.

Homeless Student Defined

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

1. share the housing of other persons due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
2. live in motels, hotels or campgrounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. live in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. are abandoned in hospitals;
5. have a primary night time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
6. live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.

An unaccompanied youth is a homeless student who is not in the physical custody of a parent of guardian.

Additionally, pursuant to federal and state law children or youth who are experiencing homelessness also include migratory children who live in circumstances described above.

Homeless pre-school-aged children and their families shall be provided equal access to the educational services for which they are eligible and if a waiting list exists they move to a priority place on the waiting list.

Enrollment of Homeless Students and Assignment of School

The Corporation shall remove all barriers to the enrollment and class attendance of homeless students in schools in the corporation. Homeless students shall be enrolled immediately, even if they do not have the necessary enrollment documentation such as immunization and health records, proof of residency or guardianship, birth certificates, school records, and other documentation. Immediately shall be defined as that school day or the next school day.

Building level homeless student liaison under the direction of the Corporation McKinney-Vento liaison will assist, to the extent feasible, the homeless student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) or unaccompanied homeless students in their efforts to provide enrollment documentation.

Homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin or the local attendance area school, according to the child's best interest. The school of origin is the school that the student attended when permanently housed or last enrolled. The local attendance area school is any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.

Homeless students have the right to dispute their school assignment, if their assignment is other than their school of origin. In determining the best interest of the student, the Corporation shall, to the extent feasible, keep the student in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the homeless student's parent or guardian or of the unaccompanied youth. If the student is assigned to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, will be provided to the homeless student's parent or guardian or to the unaccompanied youth.

If the homeless student moves to an area served by another corporation, though continuing his/her education at the school of origin, the corporation of origin and the corporation in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin. If the corporations cannot agree upon such a method the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

Homeless Student Services

Homeless students shall be provided services including:

1. Transportation services - At the request of the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth the Corporation liaison or designee will request transportation to be arranged for a homeless student to and from the school of origin
2. Free textbooks
3. Free breakfast and lunch
4. Before and after school programs run by the district
5. Educational services included under Title I

6. Educational services they meet eligibility criteria for such as programs for children with disabilities; those for students that English is not the primary language; programs in vocational, technical and career education and programs in high ability.

No board policy, administrative procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance or school success of homeless children.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. Section 11431
 42 U.S.C. Section 11432(g)
 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a
 IC 20-50-1
 42 U.S.C. 11435

Board Adopted: April 10, 2017

Board Revised: July 10, 2023