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# McKinney-Vento District Plan 2023-2024

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## **SECTION 1: OVERVIEW/GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) (McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently reauthorized in December 10th, 2016 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths. Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. SEAs and local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

### **Definition of Homeless (McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C 11435(2)):**

Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- "Double up" - Sharing the housing of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Unaccompanied Youth - Children or youth who meets the definition of homeless and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

### **Residency and Educational Rights:**

Students in temporary, inadequate, and homeless living situations have the following rights in Hanover Community School Corporation.

- Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended or the school in whose attendance area they are currently staying, even if they do not have all of the documents normally required at the time of enrollment;
- Access to free meals and textbooks, Title I and other educational programs, and other comparable services, including transportation;
- Attendance in the same classes and activities that students in other living situations also participate in without fear of being separated or treated differently due to their housing situations.

## **Procedures for the Dissemination of Educational Rights:**

All schools within the **Hanover Community Schools** shall ensure that public notice of the educational rights of students and families in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act. Posters in English and Spanish will be posted in all school buildings, local shelters, local hotels, the post office building, city hall, local library, and local food banks.

## **SECTION 2: IDENTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **Title 1 Services and Funding:**

In **Hanover Community Schools**, all children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services are automatically eligible for Title I, Part A services, whether or not they attend a Title I, Part A school or meet the academic standards required of other students for eligibility (Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sec. 1115(b)(2)(E); 20 U.S.C. 6315(b)(2)(E)). This automatic eligibility acknowledges that the experience of homelessness puts children and youth at significant risk of academic failure, regardless of their previous academic standing. Additionally, all City School children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services who are doing well academically are entitled to receive additional non-instructional education-related support services needed to succeed in school.

### **School Selection:**

**Hanover Community Schools** will keep students in homeless situations in their school of origin, defined as the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes or unless it is determined to be in the student's best educational interest. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to remain in their school of origin for the entire duration they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services may also choose to enroll in any public school that students in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

### **Procedures to Identify and Verify Eligibility of McKinney-Vento Students:**

Every current, returning, and new student in the **Hanover Community School Corporation** must complete online enrollment via the district's School Management System known as Info Snap. One of the forms to be completed online is the **Hanover Community Schools** McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire and Form (Appendix A). This **Hanover Community Schools** McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire and Form will determine if the student is facing a homeless situation. Follow-up contact to verify the information provided on the **Hanover Community Schools** McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire and Form will be conducted within five days of the completion of online enrollment by either the district or a building level McKinney-Vento liaison.

## SECTION 3: SERVICES AND STANDARDS

### **Transportation:**

Each **Hanover Community Schools** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school, including transportation services.

**Hanover Community Schools** will provide students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services with transportation to and from their school of origin at a parent or guardian's request. For unaccompanied youth, **Hanover Community Schools** will provide transportation to and from the school of origin at the request of the District McKinney-Vento Liaison. If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, **Hanover Community Schools** will provide and/or arrange transportation to and from school. If the student lives outside the **Hanover Community Schools**, **HCSC** will assume the responsibility and cost of providing transportation to and from school.

Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive these transportation services for the entire duration they are homeless.

*\*\*\*" School of Origin" is defined as the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school where the child or youth was last enrolled.\*\*\**

### **Food Services:**

Each **Hanover Community Schools** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, including school nutrition programs. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch as offered by each school for the entire duration they are homeless.

### **Textbooks and Technology:**

Each **Hanover Community Schools** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school, including access to instructional materials, assessments, and technology. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free textbooks and technology fees as each school offers for the entire duration they are homeless.

### **Academic Services & Standards:**

Each **Hanover Community Schools** child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, including educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria (Title I services, pre-school, educational programs for children with disabilities or students with limited English proficiency), programs in vocational and technical education, and programs for gifted and talented students as available.

## SECTION 4: ENROLLMENT

### Enrollment Procedures:

Any child or youth who claims to be homeless will be immediately enrolled in **Hanover Community Schools** even if they do not have required documents such as:

- ✓ school records
- ✓ medical records
- ✓ proof of residency
- ✓ Guardianship papers or other documents.

Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.

The McKinney-Vento District Liaison will assist unaccompanied youth in choosing and enrolling in a school after considering the youth's wishes, informing the youth of their rights to transportation and assisting youth in accessing transportation, and informing the youth of their right to appeal to school or school district decisions. The McKinney-Vento District Liaison must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school, pending resolution of disputes that may arise over school enrollment or placement.

Unaccompanied youth have the right to:

- Remain in their school of origin
- Transportation to and from the school of origin
- Immediately enroll in a new school serving the area in which they are currently living even if they don't have typically required documents (e.g., proof of guardianship)
- Equal access to programs and services such as gifted and talented, special, vocational, and English Language Learner services.

**Hanover Community Schools** shall remove any /all barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations. Students in homeless situations shall be free from segregation, isolation, and stigmatization.

*\*\*\*The term "enroll" is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.\*\*\**

*\*\*\*" School of Origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.\*\*\**

## Appeal and Dispute Processes:

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows.

- Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney- Vento Act as follows:
  - I. the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
  - II. The parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal
  - III. the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
  - IV. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

*\*\*\*The McKinney-Vento District Level Team consists of the McKinney-Vento District Liaison, Building Level Administration, and Director of Human Resources.\*\*\**

If a dispute arises over qualification for McKinney-Vento services, the child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services provided by **Hanover Community Schools**, pending dispute resolution. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act as follows.

- Work with the McKinney-Vento District and Building Level Liaisons to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney- Vento Act as follows:
  - V. the child or youth shall receive all McKinney-Vento rights and services, pending resolution of the dispute;
  - VI. the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal (Appendix B)
  - VII. the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
  - VIII. in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth receives all McKinney-Vento rights and services pending resolution of the dispute.

## **SECTION 5: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **McKinney-Vento Professional Development Opportunities:**

Professional development for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will be provided to all staff members of **Hanover Community Schools** via the following ways:

- McKinney-Vento District Level Team Meetings
- 1 Professional Development Meeting per year at each school building
- School Board Presentations

### **District Website:**

The **Hanover Community School Corporation** Website will include a page that will be used to communicate McKinney-Vento information with students, parents, staff, and community members. Information on the **Hanover Community Schools'** Website will include:

- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento District Liaison
- Contact information for the McKinney-Vento Building Level Liaisons
- Notice of Rights for McKinney-Vento Families
- Dispute Resolution Documents
- Link to McKinney-Vento Resources

## **SECTION 6: EDUCATIONAL STAFFING AND SUPPORT**

### **McKinney-Vento District Liaison's Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Assistant Superintendent for **Hanover Community School** serves as the District McKinney-Vento Liaison and will:

- Ensure procedures are established and followed across the school district and provide each child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services with free and appropriate education.
- Work collaboratively with transportation and food services personnel to coordinate appropriate services for any child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services.
- Disseminate critical information concerning the rights of students in homeless situations to all schools.
- Post information regarding the availability of school programs and services for students facing homeless situations in local shelters, local hotels, the local post office building, city hall, local library, and local food banks.
- Maintain a McKinney-Vento District Liaison Log to document the McKinney-Vento process for each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Plan and facilitate professional development regarding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to all staff responsible for identifying and working with students facing homeless situations.
- Work with building-level staff and administration to facilitate the success of the McKinney-Vento program and each student facing a homeless situation.



- Meet with community agencies and volunteers to share resources and information and evaluate the services' impact.
- Monitor all district data collection and reporting requirements on each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Attend state-level professional development opportunities.

**McKinney-Vento District Liaison:**

- **Name:** Phil Misecko
- **Email:** [pmisecko@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:pmisecko@hanover.k12.in.us)
- **Phone:** 219 374-3500

## **McKinney-Vento Building Level Liaison's Roles and Responsibilities:**

Each school in **Hanover Community Schools** District will identify one administrator who will serve as a representation on the McKinney- Vento District Level Team and will:

- Identify students who may be facing homeless situations.
- Monitor school attendance.
- Facilitate training at the building level.
- Ensure that building-level procedures are established and followed to provide each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services with free and appropriate education.
- Post public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations at the school.
- Make sure parents feel welcome and set the tone for further parental involvement.
- Establish a trusting relationship with students and parents.

### **Building Level McKinney-Vento Liaisons for each school are as follows:**

Tami Kepshire  
Hanover Central High School  
10120 W. 133rd Avenue  
[tkepshire@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:tkepshire@hanover.k12.in.us)  
(219) 374-3800

Thomas Martin  
Hanover Central Middle School  
10631 W. 141st Avenue  
[tmartin@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:tmartin@hanover.k12.in.us)  
(219) 374-3900

Gretchen Burdan  
Red Cedars Elementary  
10735 W. 141st Avenue  
Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
(219)587-3400  
[gburdan@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:gburdan@hanover.k12.in.us)

Becky Delgado  
Jane Ball Elementary  
13313 Parrish Avenue  
(219) 374-3700  
[rdelgado@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:rdelgado@hanover.k12.in.us)

Frank Zaremba  
Lincoln Elementary 12245  
W. 109th Avenue  
[fzaremba@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:fzaremba@hanover.k12.in.us)  
(219) 374-3600

## APPENDIX A

McKinney Vento Questionnaire is sent yearly to ALL HCSC Families during online registration. Below is a list of questions and rights shared with families:

*Please choose which of the following situations the student currently resides in (you can choose more than one):*

- House or apartment with parent or guardian
- Motel, car, or campsite
- Shelter or other temporary housing
- With friends or family members (other than or in addition to parent/guardian)

**If you are living in shared housing, please check all of the following reasons that apply:**

- Loss of housing
- Economic situation
- Temporarily waiting for a house or apartment
- Provide care for a family member
- Living with boyfriend/girlfriend
- Loss of employment
- Parent/Guardian is deployed
- Other (Please explain)

*Are you a student under 18 and living apart from your parents or guardians?*

### Housing and Educational Rights

***Students without fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residences have the following rights:***

- Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended or the local school where they are currently staying, even if they do not have all of the documents normally required at the time of enrollment, without fear of being separated or treated differently due to their housing situations;
- Transportation to the school of origin for the regular school day;
- Access to free meals, Title I and other educational programs, and transportation to extra-curricular activities to the same extent as offered to other students.

**Any questions about these rights can be directed to**

**HCSC McKinney-Vento liaison**

**Phil Misecko**

[pmisecko@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:pmisecko@hanover.k12.in.us)

Form can be found:

 **McKinney Vento Housing Questionnaire**

## APPENDIX B

### Appeal Process PARENT FORM

Dear Parent:

Be advised that you have the right to appeal the decisions made by **Hanover Community School Corporation** regarding your student's eligibility and enrollment under Title X, Part C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Students involved in a McKinney-Vento dispute process have the right to enroll immediately in the school of choice pending dispute resolution. Immediate enrollment includes full participation in all school activities.

As the district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison designee, notification should be made to **Phil Misecko** in writing within ten business days of receipt of this letter if you want to appeal the district's decision outlined above.

Attached you will find an appeal form that you can use for this notification, if we cannot reach a resolution at the district level, the dispute will be moved to the state level for final resolution, facilitated by the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE) State Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Act. State Coordinator, Deepali Jani can be reached by phone at 317-233-3372 or 317- 460-1340 via email at: [djani@doe.in.gov](mailto:djani@doe.in.gov).

Attached you will find a copy of Indiana's McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process that provides additional details on the state's McKinney-Vento dispute and appeals process, including key timelines.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions on this decision or the McKinney-Vento dispute or appeal process.

Attachments:

Sincerely,  
Phil Misecko

[pmisecko@hanover.k12.in.us](mailto:pmisecko@hanover.k12.in.us)

