

McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Students

Federal regulations require that the Fargo Public School adopt procedures for receiving and resolving disputes pertaining to transition of children and youth experiencing homelessness as identified under the McKinney-Vento Act.

If the dispute arises over eligibility, school selection or enrollment, the child/youth must be immediately enrolled in the school in which he/she is seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute (PL 107-110, Section 722(g)(3)(EO(iv). Enrollment is defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities.”

The school must refer the student and parent or guardian to the district’s homeless liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. The homeless liaison must ensure that the dispute resolution process is also applicable to unaccompanied youth. Any individual who believes that the Fargo Public school has violated the regulations or law governing the McKinney-Vento Act should submit a detailed statement of facts supporting the allegation to the Fargo Public School District’s Superintendent.

Fargo Public Schools Superintendent
700 7th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

The Director of Educational Justice shall investigate the complaint and provide the individual with the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment within fifteen (15) days. This response must include information of their right to appeal the school’s decision (PL 107-110, 722(g)(3)(ii). The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated, and provided in a language that the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth can understand. An appeal of the Director of Equity and Inclusion decision may be made to the Superintendent.

Any complaint must include the following:

- The date;
- The name of the school district, unit, or individual the complaint is against;
- The name, address, and telephone number of the individual filing the complaint;
- A detailed description of the complaint, including specific facts; and
- The signature of the person making the complaint.

Reconsideration:

If the dispute remains unresolved at the district level or is appealed, then the district’s homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to Department of Public Instruction at the state level via mail or email to:

Department of Public Instruction
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 201
Bismarck, ND 58505-044-

When a written complaint is filed, the Department of Public Instruction will investigate and issue a written response within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date the complaint is received. The Department of Public Instruction will notify the LEA, school, and parent of the final school selection or enrollment decision.

If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the individual, the individual may forward a complaint to:

The Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20208

Reviewed 8/2018
Revised 12/17/2018
Revised 10/2020
Revised 10/2021
Revised 6/2024

Who Is a Homeless Student?	A child or unaccompanied youth who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The child may live in a shelter, a temporary home, a motel, a car, a campground, or on the street. Homeless children may be “doubled-up” with relatives or friends due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
Which School Can A Homeless Student Attend?	A homeless student can attend the school that serves the address where the student is temporarily living or the school of origin (the school that the student attended prior to becoming homeless). The student can stay in the school for as long as the student is homeless or until the end of the school year, if the student becomes permanently housed.
Who Decides Which School a Homeless Student Will Attend?	It is up to the parent and the school staff to decide what’s in the student’s best interest. The parent should think about which school would be better for the child.
Is Transportation Provided?	Yes. Transportation is provided to the school which is determined to be in the child’s best interest. To get transportation, you should ask at the school. The school will be able to give you details.
Does Residency Have To Be Proven?	No. Schools must enroll homeless students right away with or without records of residency.
Does the Student Need Records?	Records are not required to attend school. Records are important for health and school information. However, a school must enroll homeless students right away even if there are no records.
Are Services Available?	Yes. We can help with school records, school materials, school meal programs, transportation, Title I services, ELL services, education services, etc. We can also help with food, clothing, and medical assistance by providing referral information.
Can School Fees Be Waived?	Yes. If you cannot afford fees they can be waived. Talk to the school office staff.
Is There a Right To Appeal?	Yes. A parent may appeal decisions regarding a child’s education. For example, if you disagree with a decision about school enrollment, school transportation or waiver of fees, you can appeal. You can get an appeal form from the school office staff or from the district web-site.
If You Are Homeless, Should You Tell Someone at School?	Yes! We will be able to help.
Is Help Available?	Yes. Ask for help at any school or call the number below.
Homeless Education Coordinator	For further information, please call (701) 446-3113.