



School Placement of Homeless Students

6.503.3p

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Standard Operating Procedure Outline

Category:	Student Policies	Department:	Federal Programs		
Procedure:	School Placement of Homeless Students				
Policy Reference # :	6.503	Version:	1.0	Date Revised:	February 15, 2019

Operational Objective(s)

To explain the process to determine school placement of students who are experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. .

Procedure

Each child and youth in transition has the right to remain at his or her school of origin or to attend any school that housed students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend. This right to the school of origin also applies when children and youth in transition wish to move with their cohort from a feeder school to a higher school. Maintaining a student in his/her school of origin is important for both the student and our school district. Keeping students in their schools of origin enhance their academic and social growth while permitting the district to benefit from increased test scores and achievement shown to result from student continuity.

Therefore, school placement determinations will be made on the basis of the “best interest” of the child or youth with a presumption that keeping the homeless child or youth in the school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, unless that is against the wishes of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth. Parents and youth have the opportunity to declare their wishes when they complete the McKinney-Vento Needs Assessment.

When determining a child’s or youth’s best interest, the following student-centered factors will be considered:

- The age of the child or youth
- The impact of mobility on the student’s education, achievement, and health

- Personal safety issues
- Priority of the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth
- A student's need to special instruction (e.g. special education and related services)
- The length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location
- The time remaining in the school year
- School placement of siblings.

Services that are required to be provided, including transportation to and from the school of origin and services under federal and other programs, will not be considered in determining school placement.

If, after making the school placement determination and considering the student-factors, the school determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, the district must provide the child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth. This written explanation also must include information regarding the right to appeal.

Students may remain at their schools of origin the entire time they are in transition and until the end of any academic year in which they become permanently housed. The same applies if a child or youth loses his or her housing between academic years.

Performance Measure/Accountability

Continuous evaluation of procedure to ensure efficiency and compliance with all regulations