

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

POLICY MANUAL

STUDENTS

CHAPTER 5.0

5.14*

HOMELESS STUDENTS

I. Definitions

- A. Homeless Child and Youth: ~~One~~ An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youth who:
1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 2. Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 3. Are living in emergency or transitional shelters, ~~or FEMA trailer or are abandoned in hospitals~~;
 4. ~~Are abandoned in hospitals or not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian;~~
 5. ~~Have a primary nighttime residence that is:~~
 - a. ~~A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;~~
 - b. ~~An institution providing temporary residence for persons who are to be institutionalized; or~~
 - 4e. Have a A primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily~~normally~~ used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 5. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
 - 6e. Are migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described in Fl.A. 1. through Fl.A.56.

- B. Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: A **homeless** student who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- C. Certified Homeless Youth: —A minor, homeless child or youth, including an unaccompanied youth, who has been certified as homeless or unaccompanied by a school district homeless liaison, the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or designee, the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program funded by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services or designee, a licensed clinical social worker, or a circuit court.
- D. ———Certified Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: An individual who is 16 years of age or older and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including a youth who has run away from home, who has been forced to leave his or her home, or whose parents have left the area and left the youth behind and is found by a school district liaison for homeless children and youth to be an unaccompanied homeless youth and believed to be qualified as such youth by the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the director's designee; the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or the director's designee; or a continuum of care lead agency, or its designee.
- ED. _School of Origin: The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including preschool.
- EE. _Enroll and Enrollment: Attending classes and fully participating in school activities.
- F. Immediate: _—Without delay.
- G. Parent: _— Parent or guardian of a student.
- H. Liaison: _— The staff person designated by the District as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- I. Designated Receiving School: When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the term "school of origin" shall

include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

J. Eligible School: The school of origin, the school zoned for the address where the student is temporarily residing, or another school which students residing in that attendance zone are eligible to attend

II. Enrollment

FSUS [Leon](#) enrolls students after being selected from the admissions process established in FSUS Board Policy 5.10. Once admitted, FSUS [Leon](#) shall remove any barriers that affect identification and retention of homeless children and youth, including attending classes and full participation in school activities, including before and after school activities. FSUS [Leon](#) shall immediately enroll the admitted homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization or other health records, birth certificates, proof of residency, proof of guardianship, or other required documentation. FSUS [Leon](#) may waive any application or enrollment deadline for a homeless child or youth. Students' immediate enrollment and attendance cannot be delayed due to lack of school uniforms or dress code requirements, outstanding fees/fines or absences. All student records (immunization, health records, academic records, [birth certificates](#), guardianship records and evaluation for special services) shall be held confidential, maintained in the students' records, and made available in a timely fashion when a child or youth enters a new school. All students' records shall not be deemed to be directory information as stated under section 444 of the General Education Provision Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)[s.722(g)(3)(G)].

The enrolling school shall immediately contact the last school attended by the student to obtain relevant academic and other records. The child or youth should be provided appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by homeless child or youth while attending a prior school. The school shall also contact the District's homeless liaison. Homeless children or youth may continue their education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year. Keeping a child or youth in the school of origin is presumed to be in the child's or youth's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth. When considering placement in a school other than the child's or youth's school of origin, the District's homeless liaison will consider student-centered

factors to determine a placement that is in the student's best interest. Homeless students who become permanently housed during the academic year, may remain at their school of origin for the remainder of the academic year and continue to receive all McKinney-Vento Act benefits.

The following can be used as admissible evidence for date of birth for homeless children in the school registration process:

- A. a duly attested transcript of the child's birth record filed according to law with a public officer charged with the duty of recording births; or
- B. a duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent; or
- C. an insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two (2) years; or
- D. a bona fide contemporary bible record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent; or
- E. a passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child; or
- F. if none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a public school physician, or if neither of these shall be available in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated by the School Board, which certificate shall state that the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is substantially correct.

III. Comparable Services

Children and youth experiencing homelessness and who meet the relevant eligibility criteria will have access to all available academic and extracurricular activities. Homeless children and youth shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to nonhomeless children and youth, including receiving comparable services such as transportation services; educational services, including special education and related service; programs for English learners; career and technical education programs; gifted programs; school nutrition programs (free meals); Title I Part A programs; and before- and after-school programs; offered to other students in the school.

Homeless children and youth shall have access to the education and other services that such students need to ensure that such students have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Homeless and unaccompanied homeless high school youth will receive counseling to prepare and improve their readiness for postsecondary education or a career.

Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated or isolated on the basis of their status as homeless. Students considered to be homeless, if expelled, will be permitted to attend an alternative school at their local school district, unless the student is expelled from all schools. Homeless preschool-aged children and their families will be provided access to educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the School District.

IV. Transportation

FSUS [Leon](#) shall ensure transportation will be arranged or provided for a homeless student or unaccompanied youth to and from the school of origin, at the written request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student. Students who move out of their attendance zone ~~have the right are eligible~~ to continue enrollment in the school of origin. The homeless liaison or designee shall ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to and from the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to and from the school of origin. The school will request transportation. The homeless liaison will work with the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, to determine if transportation to and from the school of origin is in “the best interest” of the child or youth, given the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of the student.

When the child or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the local educational agency of origin terminate and the child or youth though continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency of origin and the local educational agency in which the child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and cost for providing the child or youth with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method the responsibility and cost shall be shared equally.

V. Dispute Resolution

FSUS [Leon](#) shall ensure that homeless students and their families are aware of the student's right to remain in the school of origin and their right to dispute.

The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the district's designated homeless liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. When considering placement other than the child's or youth's school of origin, the school district will consider student-centered factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of the homeless student, to determine a placement that is in the student's best interest and will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation on their right to appeal the placement determination in a manner and form understandable to the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth. During a school selection dispute, the child or youth will either remain enrolled in the student's school of origin or shall be immediately enrolled in ~~the~~[an eligible](#) school in which enrollment is sought, either the school zoned for the address where the student is residing or another school which students residing in that attendance zone for the address are eligible to attend pending final resolution of the dispute including all available appeals. The parent or guardian of the child or youth or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth shall be provided with a written explanation, in a manner understandable to the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth of any decision related to school selection or enrollment made by the school or the school district, including the rights of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth to appeal the decision.

VI. [Coordinate and collaborate with other school districts; community service providers and organizations, including local social services and other community agencies to provide support to homeless students and their families; other local educational agencies regarding homeless student-related transportation, transfer of school records, and other inter-local educational agency activities, as needed; housing authorities; and the provision of programs for children with disabilities served by that local educational agency and other involved local educational agencies.](#)

VI. Age Limit for Student Entry

A student desiring to enroll is not eligible to register in a regular high school program unless the student can graduate by completing a normal course load prior to the student's 20th birthday. A principal may grant an extension of this time if circumstances warrant such a decision.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: TITLE VII-B OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT (42 U.S.C. 11431 ET SEQ.) (MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT)

HISTORY: The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently re-authorized in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

HISTORY:

ADOPTED: 4/14/09

REVISION DATES: 10/9/12; 12/11/18; 9/13/22

FORMERLY: NEW