

- I. Homeless children and youth who live within the county shall be provided with equal access to free appropriate educational programs, have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State of Florida academic standards, and are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.
- II. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless students as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:
 - A. Students who are living in motels, hotels, FEMA trailers, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
 - B. Students who are sharing the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardships, or similar reasons.
 - C. Students who are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; are waiting foster care placement.
 - D. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is not designated for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
 - E. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
 - F. Migratory students qualify as homeless if they are living in any of the circumstances described above (A-E).
- III. The District shall, according to the student's best interest, and by parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth request, continue the homeless student's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, or enroll the student in a District school in the attendance zone in which the homeless student is actually living on the same basis as other district students. In determining the best interest of the student, the District shall:
 - A. To the extent feasible, keep a homeless student in the school of origin, unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent or guardian.
 - B. In the case of an unaccompanied student, ensure that the District homeless education liaison helps in placement or enrollment decisions,

considers the views of the student and provides notice of the right to appeal placement and enrollment decisions.

- IV. The District will immediately enroll a homeless student, new to the district, in school, even if they do not have the documents usually required for enrollment, such as school records (includes Individualized Education Plan-IEP), medical records or proof of residency.
 - A. The District will ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized nor segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. A homeless student will be assigned to the District school in the attendance zone in which the student is actually living or to the student's school of origin as requested by the parent or guardian and in accordance with the student's best interest.
 - B. Homeless students have a right to either remain in their school of origin or to attend school where they are temporarily residing.
- V. If a dispute arises over school selection, enrollment, or any issue covered in this policy:
 - A. The student shall be immediately admitted to the school of origin or assigned zone school as requested by the parent or guardian, pending resolution of the dispute;
 - B. The parent or guardian of the student shall be provided with a written explanation of the District's decision regarding school selection, including the rights of the parent, guardian or student to appeal the decision through the District's enrollment dispute procedure and the Florida Department of Education's appeal process;
 - C. The student, parent or guardian shall be referred to the District Homeless Education Liaison, who shall ensure the resolution process is carried out as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
 - D. In the case of an unaccompanied student, the District Homeless Education Liaison shall ensure that the student is immediately enrolled in school pending the resolution of the dispute.
- VI. The District shall ensure at the request of the parent, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the District Homeless Education Liaison, transportation will be provided for a homeless student to the school or origin as follows:

- A. If the homeless student continues to live in the School District of District County, in which the school of origin is located, transportation will be provided.
 - B. If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing his or her education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin.
 - C. If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.
- VII. Homeless students shall be provided services and educational programs comparable to those offered to other students in the school selected, including the following:
- A. Preschool programs
 - B. Transportation services
 - C. Educational Services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, including special education and related services and programs for English language learners
 - D. Vocational and technical education programs
 - E. Gifted programs
 - F. School nutrition programs
 - G. Title I
 - H. Before- and After-School programs
- VIII. The Superintendent shall ensure that there is a District Homeless Education Liaison and his/her duties are communicated to district and school personnel and appropriate community agencies and providers.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

**1001.42, 1001.43,
and 1003.01(12) F.S.; 1003.21 F.S**

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:

**The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§11431 – 11436.
Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§6311 –
6315.**

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§1400 *et seq.*
April 6, 2002 Policy of the Child Nutrition Division of the U.S. Department of
Agriculture.**

**June 5, 1992 Policy of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services.
P.L. 100-77**

HISTORY:

**ADOPTED:6/12/07
REVISION DATE(S):11/11/08,8/11/09
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