

Title X, Homeless Education

The Purpose of Title X, Homeless grants to local education agencies is to provide activities for, and services to, homeless children and youth including preschool-age children that enable these children and youth to enroll, attend, and succeed in school. These services provide before or after school tutoring, supplemental instruction and enriched educational activities. All activities may be provided on school grounds.

Definition

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes: Children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up);
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- abandoned in hospitals; or
- awaiting foster care placement;

Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Requirements

The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for homeless students. They include waiving certain requirements such as proof of residency when students are enrolling and allowing categorical eligibility for certain services, such as free textbooks. The Act also states:

- Homeless students may attend their school of origin or the school where they are temporarily residing.
- Homeless students must be provided a written statement of their rights when they enroll and at least two times per year.
- Homeless students may enroll without school, medical, or similar records.
- Homeless students have a right to transportation to school.

- Students must be provided a statement explaining why they are denied any service or enrollment.
- Students must receive services, such as transportation, while disputes are being settled.
- Students are automatically eligible for Title I services.
- School districts must reserve a portion of Title IA funds to serve homeless students.
- School districts must review and revise policies that provide barriers to homeless students.
- Schools must post information in the community regarding the rights of homeless students, in schools and other places that homeless families may frequent.
- School districts must identify a McKinney-Vento Liaison to assist students.

Resolution of Disputes Regarding Placement of Homeless Students

- Homeless children and youth are entitled to the same rights and protections including due process, afforded other students in the Lauderdale County School District.
- Parents and guardians of homeless youth who are dissatisfied with the decision regarding the school assignment are entitled to appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Education.
- In the event that a dispute cannot be resolved, the parties involved will immediately notify the State Department of Education, Office of Homeless Children and Youth, wherein the dispute will be resolved through the federal programs compliance procedure. A dispute of placement does not preclude the enrollment of the child/youth.

If you or someone you know is homeless and needs assistance, please contact the Lafayette County School District Homeless Liaison at 662-234-3271.

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) Publications
(Visiting <http://www.nlchp.org/> or calling 202-638-2535 can obtain Copies of the following brochures and /or websites)