

SULPHUR PUBLIC SCHOOL
Homeless Education Policy and Procedures
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

The goal of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is to ensure that each homeless child or youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as the non-homeless. Sulphur Public School will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable preschool programs, Title I, special education, English language education programs, vocational and technical education programs and school nutrition programs. This policy addresses the following key components of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act:

Definition of Homeless Children and Youth

Sulphur Public School has adopted Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act regarding the definition of homeless children and youth which states:

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or have a primary nighttime residence in a supervised, publicly or privately, operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

This definition includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are 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;
- Migratory children (as such term is defined in Section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above; and
- Unaccompanied youth (a youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian).

Designation of a Homeless Education Liaison

Sulphur Public School will designate a staff person whose role will be in part to ensure that homeless students enroll in school and that they receive eligible educational services.

Enrollment

Sulphur Public School shall immediately enroll homeless students even if they do not have the documents usually required for enrollment, (i.e., school records, medical records or proof of residency). The Homeless Liaison will assist families if needed in obtaining required records.

Homeless parents have the right to decide, along with the school, whether it is feasible or in the best interest of their child to attend the school of origin which would allow the child to stay in the same school he/she attended before becoming homeless or transfer to the school nearest the shelter or other temporary housing.

In the case of unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Liaison or designee will assist in enrollment decisions.

Disputes

A student must be allowed to attend the school whose district is challenging the student's right to attend until the state department of education/designee makes a decision regarding the dispute. The challenging school district must continue to provide transportation and other school services to the student until the dispute is resolved.

The parent or guardian shall be informed of the district's decision and their appeal rights in writing. The district Homeless Liaison will carry out dispute resolution as provided by state guidelines.

Nutrition Programs

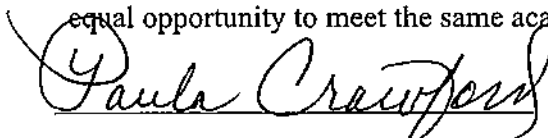
The determination of eligibility for free meal benefits will be made available to homeless students without delay. School staff may accept documentation that students are homeless from the Homeless Education Liaison or the director of the homeless shelter where the students reside.

Transportation

Homeless students are entitled to transportation at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an accompanied youth, the liaison) to their school of origin or the school where they are enrolled. The district will provide transportation services to homeless children and youth that are comparable to those received by other students.

Title I Services

Homeless students have the right to access the education services needed to ensure that they have an equal opportunity to meet the same academic standards as other students.

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