



Supports for Homeless Students

Overview

1. Homeless students in the District shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate education and other services, including public preschool education, as other students.
2. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires that the District:
 - a. Ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their homeless status;
 - b. Designate a homeless liaison to coordinate services to ensure that homeless students enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed academically;
 - c. Develop an appeal procedure for the prompt resolution of disputes that is accessible to all parties; and
 - d. Educate school staff and administrators about the rights of homeless students and families by providing information about the homeless assistance act and this directive in schools and administrative offices.

Definitions

1. “Enrollment” means attending classes and participating fully in school activities.
2. “School of origin” means the school that a student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

When a student who has been designated as McKinney-Vento (homeless) has completed the final grade served by the school of origin, *if the student is still in a homeless living situation*, the term “school of origin” shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

3. “Homeless student” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes:
 - a. Students who are temporarily staying at the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, emergency crisis situation, fire,

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2. Provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, if the district sends a homeless student to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian;
3. Ensure that the district's liaison helps with placement or enrollment decisions for an unaccompanied student and considers the request of the student, and provides a notice of the right to appeal on placement and enrollment decisions.

Enrollment

The district shall immediately enroll the student in the school selected even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as academic records, medical records, proof



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and appeal process, including final appeal to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) State Coordinator.

The student, parent or guardian shall be referred to the district's liaison, who shall ensure the resolution process is carried out as expeditiously as possible. In the case of an unaccompanied student, the district's liaison shall ensure the student is immediately enrolled in school pending the resolution of the dispute.

Services

Each homeless student shall be provided with services comparable to services offered to other students, including the following:

1. Transportation services;
2. Education services for which the student is eligible, such as:
 - a. Title 1*;
 - b. Special education;
 - c. Programs for English Learners;
 - d. Career and technical education;
 - e. Talented and gifted programs.
3. *All homeless students are automatically eligible for Title I services, regardless of their current academic performance.
4. School nutrition programs.



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Coordination

The district shall coordinate the provision of services to homeless students with local social service agencies, and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless students and their families. Services will also be provided in cooperation with other districts on inter-district issues such as transportation, transfer of school records and issues concerning appropriate credit for full or partial course work completed at a prior school to ensure that homeless students have access to available educational and related services.

District Liaison

The district's liaison shall ensure that:

1. Homeless students are identified and assessed for needs;
2. Homeless students enroll in and have a



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The district's liaison shall coordinate and collaborate with the ODE state coordinator, community and school personnel responsible for the provision of educational and related services to homeless students.

Legal references: USED Non-Regulatory Guidance (July 27, 2016); McKinney-Vento Act – Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, as amended December 2015 under ESSA; ORS 109.056; ORS 327.006; ORS 339.115; ORS 339.133; ORS 433.267; OAR 581-021-0045 to – 0046; Adpt 8/14/18.