Partnership Schools

Homeless Student Education Program

McKinney - Vento

Policy and Procedures

Policy Statement

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is the primary federal law for educating children and youth in homeless situations. It protects their right to access, stay in, and succeed in school while homeless. The law also requires schools and states to use child-centered, best-interest decision-making when working with homeless children and their families to choose a homeless child's school, services, and other needed resources. Partnership Schools will make all reasonable efforts to include individuals with knowledge of the student (parent, guardian, caregiver), representatives of the school, the student, and other persons with information relevant to the best determination.

Identification

The McKinney-Vento Act's definition of who qualifies as a homeless child or youth is "Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, being considered an unaccompanied youth, which refers to a student, not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian."

Homeless Students Rights Guaranteed Under the McKinney-Vento Act.

- Be given the same access to public education as other students
- Immediate enrollment in school without having a permanent address
- Attend classes while the school arranges for required enrollment documents (immunization records, etc.)
- Receive Title I services, including free breakfast and lunch all school year and 30 days into the next school year.
- Student can continue their education in the school of origin or residence
- Be transported to their original school
- Attend and participate in programs at their school with other students
- Participate in the same special programs and services provided to all other students in the same programs
- Students and their families have access to a dispute resolution process through the Arizona Department of Education when they disagree with a school about how the McKinney-Vento Act applies in their situation.

Procedures

- Parents or Guardians complete the Student Residency Status McKinney Vento Eligibility Questionnaire in the enrollment packet.
- If question # 1 on the questionnaire is yes, notify the site Principal and Homeless Student Liaison.

- If a staff member believes a student is experiencing homelessness, they can meet with the parent/ guardian and student to complete the Residency Questionnaire. If the staff member is uncomfortable speaking with the parent/guardian or student, please inform the Academic Counselor or Dean of Students. .
- Complete the residency questionnaire.
- When the questionnaire is completed, please have the site principal sign it and give the document to the Homeless Student Liaison.
- The Homeless Student Liaison will determine eligibility.
- Once eligibility is determined, the liaison will contact the District Data Manager and site leadership.
- The homeless student liaison and district leadership will be responsible for the Best Interest Determination (BID) meeting.
- In a dispute, district leadership will review the dispute and notify the relevant parties of the final decision.

Services Provided

- Clothing, Uniforms
- School Supplies, Extracurricular Fees
- Cap and Gown
- Toiletries/ Hygiene kits
- Transportation/ Bus Passes
- Information about services in the community.

FAQs

- The Family has lost housing, is unable to stay together in the same place, and placed the child temporarily with someone else who is considered homeless.
- If a parent or guardian arranges for the child to stay with others because of a work conflict, they are not considered homeless.
- Mutual decisions to live together for mutual benefit; they are not considered homeless.
- Foster Care students are not considered homeless.
- Homeless eligibility is determined yearly

If you have any questions, please contact the Homeless Student Liaison at

atucker@thepartnership.us