The Homeless Children and Youth In Transition Policy and Procedures Manual

POLICY 5.1 A-1



Student Support Services & ESE Student Services

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Introduction

Broward County Public Schools, through the Student Support Services & ESE/Student Services Department's Homeless Education Program, assists schools with the identification, enrollment, and attendance of homeless students. Authorization was requested to approve the Homeless Education School Board Policy that addresses the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act.

The Stewart B. McKinney Bruce Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (McKinney Vento Act), reauthorized by Congress in January 2002, establishes the following policy for the education for homeless children and youth:

"Each State educational agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths."

Broward County Public Schools is committed to identify and provide services through The Homeless Education Program, which is incorporated hereby in this Policy and Procedures Manual. The Homeless Education Program serves homeless children and youth by ensuring that they are furnished with school placement, registration, homeless awareness activities for students, school-based personnel, and community groups, after school tutorial programs, and transportation services. The primary objective program is to prevent homeless children and youth from being stigmatized or separated, segregated, or isolated on the basis of their status as homeless. Multiple efforts have been developed to ensure the equity of all homeless students.

Purpose of the Manual

The Homeless Children and Youth in Transition Policy and Procedures Manual was developed to provide schools district offices and schools with pertinent information regarding the services required by Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Student Support Services & ESE. It provides definitions, procedures, and the necessary forms to ensure that homeless students are given the necessary services. This board policy and procedures manual is approved to ensure the academic success of homeless students well beyond BCPS internal changes.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida shall ensure that all homeless children and youth, including preschool-aged children, are provided with equal access to free, appropriate educational programs, Section 721(1), PL 107-110, and Section 1003.21(1)(f), Florida Statutes, have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State of Florida academic standards, (722(g)(1)(A)), are not segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and that safeguards are established to protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness. (721(1)-(4), 722(g)(1)(J)(i).

(8) Comparable Services (Section 722(g))

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 (722(g)(1)(F)(i))
- (b) Transportation services (722(g)(1)(J)(iii); 722(g)(4)(A))
- (c) Educational Services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, including special education and related services and programs for English language learners (722(g)(4)(B))
- (d) Vocational and technical education programs (722(g)(4)(C))
- (e) Gifted programs (722(g)(4)(D))
- (f) School nutrition programs (722(g)(1)(E), 722(g)(4)(E))
- (g) Title I (722(g)(4)(B))
- (h) Before- and After-School programs (722(g)(1)(F)(iii))

BCPS will adopt the following policies to ensure that: homeless children and youth are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth, to include receiving comparable services offered to other students in the school;

• homeless students are identified based on the McKinney Vento Act definition;

- homeless children and youth have access to the education and other services that such students need to ensure that such students have an opportunity to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held;
- homeless preschool aged children and their families have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the LEA;
- barriers are removed that affect the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in schools in the LEA;
- issues are addressed such as guardianship and transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, and other documentation;
- homeless students are enrolled immediately;
- homeless children and youth are not stigmatized or separated, segregated, or isolated on the basis of their status as homeless;
- homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin and dispute school selection, if other than school of origin; and
- transportation is provided to homeless students, at the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, to and from the school of origin and includes the provision for inter-LEA transportation, in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act.

Experience has shown that despite its specificity, the McKinney Vento Act's definition of homelessness leaves some gray areas. State Coordinators, Liaisons, and others need a process to resolve those gray areas. This document suggests some potential elements of such a process.

The McKinney-Vento Act's definition of "homeless children and youths" provides the following general framework: individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The law then lists several situations which fit within that framework. This list is not inclusive; rather, it is meant to address some of the more common situations of homelessness. Migrant children who are living in one of the described situations are also considered homeless under the Act.

(1) **Definitions:**

- (a) The McKinney Vento Act, (Section 725(2)), defines homeless students as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:
 - 1. Students who are living in motels, hotels, FEMA trailers, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
 - 2. Students who are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; are waiting foster care placement.
 - 3. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is not designated for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. (McKinney-Vento Section103(a)(2)(C)).
 - 4. Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
 - 5. Migratory students qualify as homeless if they are living in any of the circumstances described above (1-4).
- (b) "Unaccompanied youth": a student who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian (Section 725(6)).
- (c) "School of origin": the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school where the child or youth was last enrolled (Section 722(g)(3)(G)).

- (d) "Enroll and enrollment": attending school and participating fully in school activities (Section 725(1)).
- (e) "Immediate": without delay.
- (f) "Parent": parent means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of the parent (FS 1000.21(5)).
- (g) "Liaison": the staff person designated by Broward County Public Schools as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Act (Section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii)).

The District Homeless Education Liaison shall make a final determination of homeless status on a case-by case basis.

Homeless Education Services Quick Reference

Determining Homeless by the Definition

- Sharing the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailor parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals; or
- Awaiting foster care placement

Enrollment Procedures

- A school selected on the basis of a "best interest determination" must immediately enroll
- In most cases the homeless student has a choice of either of two schools, the school of origin where previously attended or their boundary school.
- Family residency Immunization, health, and school records are not needed for immediate enrollment

Enrollment Forms

- Homeless Education Registration From
- Referral/Report of Homeless Student
- Special Transportation Request Referral
- Caregiver's Authorization Form

National Law Center On Homeless & Poverty Determining Homelessness by the Definition¹

It cannot be emphasized enough that determining whether a particular child or youth fits the definition of homeless is a case-specific inquiry. General answers based on incomplete information or hypothetical situations will often be legally incorrect.

STEP 1

Is the child or youth covered by subparagraph (B)(i) of the definition?

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals; or
- Awaiting foster care placement.

If ves, apply the McKinney-Vento Act.

If no, go to step 2

<u>If unclear</u>, see if Step 4 can help, and/or seek advice from your attorney, the U.S. Department of Education, your peers, or other appropriate individuals.

To further define "awaiting foster care placement", collaborate with child welfare officials, attorneys, and other community members to establish guidelines.

STEP 2

Is the child or youth covered by subparagraph (B)(ii) of the definition?

• Residing at 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.

If yes, apply the McKinney-Vento Act.

If no, go to Step 3.

If unclear, see if Step 4 can help, and/or seek advice from your attorney, the U.S. Department of Education, your peers, or other appropriate individuals.

STEP 3

¹ Drafted by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, March 2003. Address questions/comments to Patricia Julianelle, at <u>julianelle@nlchp.org</u>. This information is not offered as legal advice and should not be used as a substitute for seeking professional legal advice. It does not create an attorney-client relationship with you.

Is the child or youth covered by subparagraph (B)(iii) of the definition?

• Living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.

If yes, apply the Mckinney Vento Act.

If no, go to Step 4.

If unclear, see if the definitions below can help, and/or seek advice from your attorney, the U.S. Department of Education, your peers, or other appropriate individuals.

To further define "substandard housing", collaborate with attorneys and other community members to establish guidelines sensitive to community standards and cultural norms.

STEP 4

Does the child or youth lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence?

If yes, apply the McKinney-Vento Act.

If no, don't apply the McKinney-Vento Act.

If unclear, see if the definitions below can help, and/or seek advice from your attorney, the U.S. Department of Education, your peers, or other appropriate individuals.

a) FIXED²

- Securely placed or fastened
- Not subject to change or fluctuation (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition)

A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change. (e.g. Arizona, Massachusetts and Michigan McKinney-Vento State Plans, 2002)

b) REGULAR³

- Normal, standard.
- Constituted, conducted or done in conformity with established or prescribed usages.
- Recurring, attending, or functioning at fixed or uniform intervals.

 (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition)

² Other informative definitions include:

Inhabitant- One who although he may not be a citizen, dwells or resides in a place permanently, or has a <u>fixed</u> residence therein, as distinguished from an occasional lodger or visitor.

<u>Dwel</u>l-To inhabit, to reside; to have a <u>fixed</u> place of residence.

Domicile -The place where a person has his true <u>fixed permanent home and principal establishment</u>, and to which place he has, whenever he is absent, the intention of returning, and from which he has no present intention of moving. Ballentine's Law Dictionary, 3rd Edition (emphases added)

³ Other alternative definitions include: Habitual- By habit; constant; customary, accustomed, usual; common; ordinary; regular; familiar. Ballentine's Law Dictionary, 3rd Edition (emphases added)

What Are Ways To Identify Students Who Are Experiencing Homelessness?

As school employees, we must be aware of the silent signals our students may present. These characteristics could be attributed to students with other issues as well as those students/families experiencing homeless:

- Attendance at several schools
- More than one family at the same address
- Poor hygiene and grooming
- Hunger and hoarding food
- Vague when asked about proof of residency
- Some common statements used by homeless students/families may include:
 - "We've moved a lot."
 - "We're staying with relatives/friends while looking for a place."
 - "We're going through a bad time right now."

If homelessness is suspected, possible follow up questions:

- 1. Are you living in this household because you do not have stable housing?
- 2. Do you live in any of these situations?

sharing housing with relatives or others due to lack of housing
in a shelter or transitional living program
in a motel, hotel, park or campground due to lack of adequate housing
in a car or RV or in a public place (such as a bus station)
in sub-standard housing, such as an abandoned building
without a parent or guardian, or a teen (up to age 21) living independently
awaiting foster care placement
— parents are migrant workers
<u>in other situations that are not fixed, regular or adequate for nighttime_residence</u>

1. Would you be willing to talk/meet with our social worker to discuss resources available to you?

Is Your Family Facing Homelessness or Housing Problems? Who May Be Eligible?

Children and youth in families with housing problems that have forced them to:

- Live temporarily with another family.
- Live in a motel, campground or car.
- Live in an emergency, domestic violence or transitional shelter.

Children and youth on their own:

- Living temporarily with another family.
- Living in a motel, campground or car.
- Living in an emergency, transitional or runaway shelter.
- Awaiting foster care placement.

Information on this form was adapted from the National Center for Homeless Education

The Educational Rights of Students in Homeless Situations: What Schools Need to Know

School District Homeless Student Liaison:

Liaisons are Local Educational Agencies (LEA) appointed staff member responsible for ensuring the identification, school enrollment, attendance, and opportunities for academic success of students in homeless situations. Some of these activities may be accomplished solely by the liaison, while others are accomplished by coordinating the efforts of other staff members. By linking students and their families to school and community services, liaisons play a critical role in stabilizing students and promoting academic achievement at the individual, school and district level. Additionally, every school has an assigned Homeless Student Liaison (if not, this should be done immediately) to assist in obtaining school and immunization health records, identification, enrollment, attendance and all other needs a homeless student or family may have. The school liaison works collaboratively with the District homeless student liaison. To obtain the name of the school liaison consult your school Principal.

The Broward County Homeless Student District Liaison is Marcel Martin, Student Support Services & ESE/ Student Services, and can be reached at 754-321-2574.

Homeless Student Identification Policy:

Homeless children and youth are difficult to identify for many reasons, and thus often go unnoticed by school personnel. In order to identify homeless children both in and out of school, the District Liaison coordinates with community service agencies, local shelters, street outreach teams, and faith based organizations. In addition, the liaison provides awareness trainings to all school registrars, school counselors and school social workers.

- a) Self report. A Family or student may notify school counselor or teacher and report their living situation; or upon enrollment they will report their situation to the school registrar.
- b) Shelter Referral: The local shelters send monthly reports of all the school-aged children they have living in their shelters.
- e) Food and Nutrition: When students/families complete the free and reduced lunch application there is a box on the top that is checked if the student is an unaccompanied minor or homeless. The Food and Nutrition department calls the Homeless Education Program to confirm.
- d) Referrals from other school districts.
- e) Referrals from Social Workers doing home visits for other family issues. Many of our double ups are identified this way.
- f) Referrals from the school social workers. Many of our unaccompanied minors are identified by the truancy intervention social workers.
- g) Other District offices such as: Community Involvement, Superintendents Office etc.

- (2) School Selection (Section 722(g)(3)(A) (B))
 - (a) 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.
 - (b) In determining the best interest of the student, the District shall:
 - 1. 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 the unaccompanied youth. The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the student lives with the homeless parents or guardian or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.
 - 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. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, 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.
 - 4. Not mandate that a homeless student go through the formal reassignment process. The requirements of the Student Assignment Plan for students moving their physical residence from one attendance zone to another, to transfer to a school in the new zone of residence, shall not apply to homeless students.
 - 5. Code out of boundary homeless students in TERMS, documenting the Student Assignment process.

Enrollment:

(3) Enrollment (SEC. 722(g)(3)(C)-(D))

The District will immediately enroll homeless students, new to the district, in schools, even if they do not have the documents usually required for enrollment, such as school records (includes Individual Education Plan, IEP), medical records or proof of residency. (722(g)(3)(C) (D))

(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 unaccompanied youth and in accordance with the student's best interest. (722(g)(1)(i))
- (b) Homeless students have a right to either remain in their school of origin or to attend school where they are temporarily residing. (722(g)(3)(A))
- (c) Homeless students who choose to remain in their school of origin have the right to remain there until the end of the school year in which they get permanent housing. (722(g)(3)(A)(i)(II))
- (d) If a homeless student arrives without records, the receiving school shall immediately contact the school last attended to obtain relevant academic and other records.

 (722(g)(3)(C)(ii))
- (e) The District shall immediately enroll the new student in the school assigned even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as academic records, medical records, proof that the student lives in Broward County, or other documentation. (722(g)(3)(C)(i))
- (f) The District/school shall assist the parent or guardian in obtaining necessary immunizations or other records if the student needs to obtain these records. The school should refer to the school social worker or homeless liaison if additional assistance is needed. (722(g)(3)(C)(iii))

(4) Residency (SEC. 722(g)(3))

A homeless student is considered a resident if the child or youth is personally somewhere within the district.

- (a) The student shall be considered a resident when living with a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis not solely for school purposes or for participation in extracurricular activities.
- (b) Homeless students who do not live with their parents or guardians may enroll themselves in school. (722(g)(3)(C))
- (c) The address listed on the enrollment forms becomes proof that the student lives in Broward County, Florida.

School stability and continuity in school enrollment are associated with school success including achievement, promotion, and graduation. Research studies have indicated that a child may lose 4-6 months of academic progress with each move to a new school. The importance of a child attending one school and attending consistently (in one school or in several schools without gaps during a transition) cannot be underestimated. Therefore, it is the policy of the Broward County Public Schools to continue the student's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, according to the child's or youth's best interest. This is evident when a family

becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or for the remainder of the academic year, the child or youth will finish the academic year. (722(g)(3)(A)(i)(I) an (II) of the McKinney-Vento Act).

Segregation:

It is the policy of the Congress as well as the Broward County Public Schools that homelessness alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment. Schools are prohibited from segregating homeless students in separate schools, separate programs within schools, or separate settings within schools. They have the right to participate in school activities and extra curricular events.

Parent /Student Poster Distribution:

A poster was designed to provide information to homeless under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act and lists the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness. It is placed in schools, shelters and public offices in the community. This is geared to generate public awareness support.

Parental Participation:

Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's academic life. Counselors are assigned to the shelters though the Homeless Education Program to provide parenting classes and workshops to parents at the shelter sites. Such topics include:

- Helping your child with homework.
- Understanding the FCAT.
- Managing stress.
- Responsible Parenting.
- What is the McKinney-Vento Act: Understanding your child's educational rights.
- HIV/AIDS prevention.

Homeless Student Enrollment Procedures for School Registrars

Homeless children and youth often do not have the documents ordinarily required for school enrollment. Enrolling them in school immediately provides these children and youth needed stability and is also a Federal requirement under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The following are the Broward County Public Schools enrollment procedures to facilitate the registration for homeless students.

- A school selected on the basis of a "best interest determination" must immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce the records normally required for enrollment (such as previous academic records, medical records, and proof of residency, birth certificates, or other documentation).
- The enrolling school must immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic or other records.
- If a child or youth needs to obtain immunization, medical or school records, the enrolling school must immediately enroll the student and then refer the parent or guardian to the local health department, full service school, or the homeless liaison. If he/she is an unaccompanied minor refer to the School Liaison or District Liaison.
- Use the address the parent provides. Utility bills, leases, etc. do not apply when a parent discloses they are in a homeless situation.
- Complete the Homeless Education Registration Form after enrollment and fax it to the attention of Marcel Martin, Homeless Education Program, District Liaison at 754-321-2469.
- If the student needs transportation, contact Marcel Martin, via CAB, or externally at Marcel.martin@browardschools.com or call at 754-321-2574. Special transportation requests can only be granted through the Homeless Education Program.
- A homeless student is identified by a designation on the mainframe on the A23 panel.

Procedure for registering a homeless student without Immunization or Medical Records:

Broward County Public Schools registrars have the task to register new students. If a student does not have immunizations or medical records, the school, or liaison must immediately assist in obtaining them, and the students must be enrolled in school in the interim. The student is given 30 days to acquire necessary documentation. Please consult the Health Services Manual posted online.

Please contact Ms. Marcel Martin, District Liaison, at 754–321–2574 for assistance in getting free immunization and school physicals.

Enrolling Students on Their Own: When Legal Guardians Are Not Present:

(5) Guardianship (SEC. 722(g))

- (a) For purposes of school placement, any parent, guardian or person in loco parentis who has legal or physical custody of a homeless child or youth shall enroll that child or youth directly in a District school via the Homeless Education Program, Student Assignment office or school that registers students on site, if selected.
- (b) The District Guardian Responsibilities form must be completed within a reasonable period of time for those homeless students who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian, once a child or unaccompanied youth is enrolled in and attending a school.

In most LEAs (local education agencies or school districts), enrollment procedures are predicated on the expectation that children are living with their parents or legal guardians. Requiring parents or legal guardians to sign forms upon enrolling children provides schools with protection from certain types of liability and with contact information for situations in which additional permissions or consultations are needed.

In a number of instances, however, children and youth who are enrolling in a school may not be living with their parents or legal guardians. Frequently, children in families experiencing homelessness are sent to live temporarily with friends or relatives. This type of living arrangement has been especially prevalent in families displaced by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. In other situations, youth have been forced to leave home due to abusive environments or are on their own for other reasons. These children and youth, in most cases, fit the definition of homeless, unaccompanied youth in the McKinney-Vento Act: a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C. §11434A(6)] and eligible for immediate school enrollment.

The McKinney Vento Act requires school districts to enroll homeless children and youth in school immediately, even if they lack required enrollment documents [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(3)(C), (g)(1)(H)(iv), (g)(1) (F)(ii)]. ("Enroll" and "enrollment" are defined as "attending classes and participating fully in school activities" [42 U.S.C. §11434A(1)].) The Act further requires states to review and revise any policy that may act as a barrier to the enrollment of homeless children and youth and requires states to give particular attention to guardianship issues [42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(7)].

Therefore, schools may not condition school enrollment upon the receipt of proof of legal guardianship by caregivers of homeless, unaccompanied youth; nor may they require caregivers to become legal guardians within a certain period of time after the child enrolls in school. The decision to seek legal guardianship is a serious decision that affects significantly the legal rights of the parent and caregiver well beyond the education arena. Although that step may be appropriate in some cases, it will not be in others.

In addition, it is important to note that the absence of an available caregiver must not impede enrollment. Unaccompanied, homeless youth who are on their own completely must be enrolled in school immediately.

(9) Homeless Education Liaisons (722(g)(6)(B))

The Superintendent shall ensure that a District Homeless Education Liaison is appointed and ensure that his/her duties are communicated to district and school personnel and appropriate community agencies and service providers/organizations.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, every school district must designate a local homeless education liaison [42 U.S.C. § 1 1432(g)(1)(J)(ii)]. The local liaison plays a key role in identifying and supporting unaccompanied, homeless youth and is required to help them choose and enroll in school after considering their wishes; inform them of their right to transportation; assist them in accessing transportation; provide them with notice of their right to appeal school or school-district decisions; and ensure that they are enrolled in school immediately, pending resolution of disputes [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A)].

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Homeless unaccompanied youth often face unique barriers in enrolling and succeeding in school. These barriers include school attendance policies, credit accrual, and legal guardianship requirements. Without a parent or guardian to advocate for them and exercise parental rights, they may be denied enrollment and remain out of school for extended periods of time. Unaccompanied youth also may not understand their educational rights, or know how to acquire this information.

The liaison assists unaccompanied youth in accessing educational service through the following activities:

- Helping unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's best academic interests;
- Providing unaccompanied youth with notice of their appeal rights in a language they canunderstand or in an accessible format;
- Informing youth of their right to transportation to and from the school of origin, and assisting unaccompanied youth in accessing transportation; and
- Ensuring that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending the resolution of disputes.

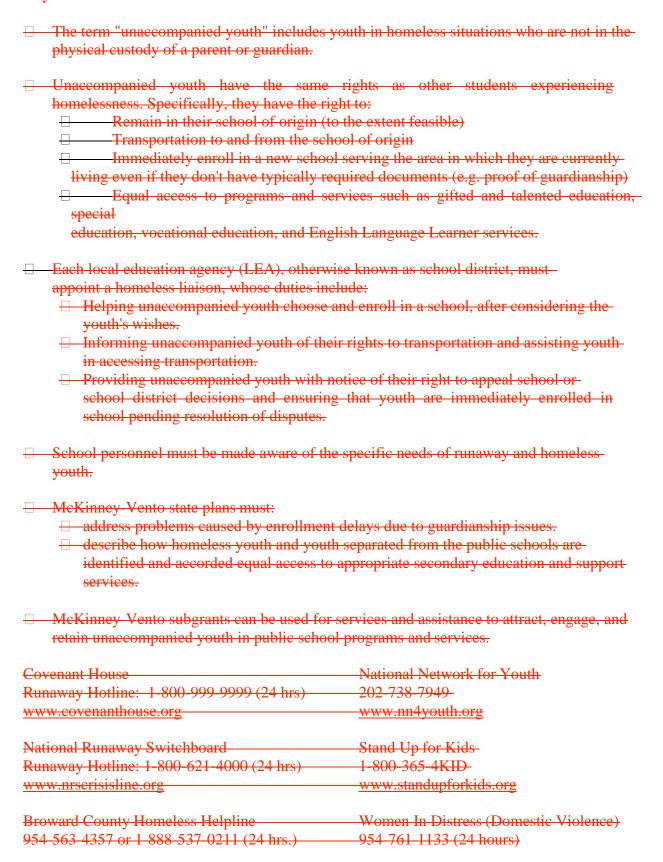
Unaccompanied youth include young people who have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians. These young people are separated from their parents for a variety of reasons. More than half report being physically abused at home and over one third report sexual abuse. More than two thirds report that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol. For many of these young people, leaving home is a survival issue. Other youth may be thrown out of their homes because they are pregnant, gay or lesbian, or because their parents believe they are old enough to take care of themselves. Over half of youth living in shelters report that their parents either told them to leave or knew they were leaving and did not care. Once out of the home, unaccompanied youth are frequently victimized. As many as half have been assaulted or robbed; and one in ten runaways reports being raped.

School may be the only safe and stable environment available to unaccompanied youth. Yet unaccompanied youth often face unique barriers to enrolling and succeeding in school. Without a parent or guardian to advocate for them and exercise parental rights, they are sometimes denied enrollment and remain out of school for extended periods of time. Unaccompanied youth also may not understand their educational rights or know how to acquire this information.

The Role of the McKinney-Vento Act

The education provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act, which are now incorporated within No Child Left Behind, ensure educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The law directly applies to homeless unaccompanied youth who also receive some special attention within the Act.

Key Provisions



Transportation

(7) Transportation (SEC. 722(g)(1)(J)(iii))

The District shall ensure that, at the request of the parent, (or, in the case of anunaccompanied youth at the request of the District Homeless Education Liaison), transportation will be provided for a homeless student to the school of origin as follows:

- (a) If the homeless student continues to live in the school district of Broward County, in which the school of origin is located, transportation will be provided.

 (722(g)(1)(J)(iii)(I))
- (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 and from the school of origin. (722(g)(1)(J)(iii)(II))
- (c) If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally. (722(g)(1)(J)(iii)(II))

Key Provisions

- □ Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), otherwise known as school districts, must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent or guardian's request.
 □ For unaccompanied youth, LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school of
- origin at the LEA homeless liaison's request.
- "School of origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
- ☐ If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same LEA, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation. If the student is living outside the school of origin's LEA,(school district) the LEA where the student is living and the school of origin's LEA must determine how to divide the responsibility and cost of providing transportation, or they must share the responsibility and cost equally.
- ☐ In addition to providing transportation to the school of origin, LEAs must provide students in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students.

Changing schools greatly impedes students' academic and social growth. A "rule of thumb" is that it takes a child four to six months to recover academically after changing schools. Highly mobile students have also been found to have lower test scores and overall academic performance than peers who do not change schools. This diminished achievement hurts students and schools.

Although the McKinney-Vento Act permits students in homeless situations to remain in their schools of origin despite their residential instability, lack of transportation commonly prevents them from continuing in their schools of origin. Therefore, LEAs are now required to provide transportation to the school of origin. The resulting educational stability will enhance students'

academic and social growth, while permitting schools to benefit from the increased test scores and achievement shown to result from student continuity.

Transportation Frequently Ask Questions

- 1. Under what circumstances must a school district provide transportation to school for students experiencing homelessness?
- A: The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to provide transportation for students experiencing homelessness in three situations.
 - a. First, school districts must provide transportation to the school of origin upon the request of a parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, upon the request of the liaison. 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii). That is true regardless of whether the district provides transportation for other students or in other circumstances.
 - b. Second, for other transportation (as opposed to the school of origin), the McKinney Vento Act requires districts to provide transportation comparable to that provided to housed students. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4)(A). Therefore, if the district transports housed students to the local school or to a summer program, it must also transport students experiencing homelessness.
 - c. Finally, school districts must eliminate barriers to the school enrollment and retention of students experiencing homelessness. For example, if a student is living on or near an extremely busy intersection, in a very dangerous neighborhood, or is otherwise unable to attend school without transportation, the district must eliminate lack of transportation as a barrier to the child attending school. 42 U.S.C. §§ 11432(g)(l)(I), (g)(7).
- 2 How far is too far to travel to the school of origin? What if my state has established a general limit on all school transportation of one hour or 30 miles?
- A: The McKinney Vento Act does not specify any mileage or time limit for travel to the school of origin. The Act requires school districts to provide transportation to the school of origin at the request of a parent or guardian or, for unaccompanied youth, at the liaison's request. 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii). Therefore, whenever a student is attending the school of origin, transportation is required. A commute so lengthy as to be harmful to the child's educational achievement will weigh against placement in the school of origin. This determination will depend on the student's circumstances. For example, a lengthy commute that may be harmful to a young child may be feasible for an older youth. Similarly, in many rural areas, lengthy commutes to school—are common; the commute of a child experiencing homelessness in such an area would need to be evaluated in that context. Therefore, transportation services must rest on the individualized feasibility determination, not blanket limits. State or school district policies that establish blanket limits on transportation violate the McKinney Vento Act. The federal law supersedes these contrary state or local—policies.
- 3. Is transportation required if the school of origin is in another school—district?

A: Yes. As long as attendance at the school of origin is feasible, transportation is required, even if it requires students to cross district lines. If two districts are involved, they must agree upon a method to apportion the cost and responsibility of transportation, or split it equally. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii). States should develop a system to assist with inter district transportation issues, including disputes between districts regarding apportioning costs and responsibility. The state attorney general's office may also be able to assist. States may have policies about shared fiscal responsibilities. The possibility of nonpayment does not affect districts' obligation to provide transportation. Inter district disputes cannot delay the immediate enrollment (defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities) of children in the school selected.

U.S.C. §§11432(g)(3)(C), 11434A(1). Establishing inter-district transportation procedures will be essential to ensure that transportation is arranged quickly for students.

- 4. If a student is crossing district lines to remain at the school of origin, which district has primary responsibility to arrange and fund the transportation?
- A: The McKinney Vento Act first gives school districts and states the ability to agree upon a method to apportion cost and responsibility. The Act further states that in the absence of agreement, the two districts must apportion cost and responsibility equally. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii). However responsibility is divided, students must be provided with transportation without delay. In practice, states may wish to designate either the district of origin or the district of residence as the lead agency, to avoid any delays in initiating services while such disagreements are resolved. Any such delays would violate the McKinney Vento Act's requirement that students be immediately enrolled in the selected school.
- 5. When two states are involved in a dispute regarding provision of transportation and either state absolutely refuses to pay any of the cost, is there a provision for a federally-enforced resolution?
- A: The states may call the USDE for technical assistance in resolving the dispute. The state attorney general's office also may be able to assist. States may have policies about shared fiscal responsibilities. The possibility of nonpayment does not affect districts' obligations to provide transportation. Inter state disputes cannot delay the immediate enrollment (defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities) of children in the school selected. 42 U.S.C. §§ 11432(g)(3)(C), 11434A(1). Establishing inter-state transportation procedures will be essential to ensure that transportation is arranged quickly for students. Communication among the involved State Coordinators and liaisons can facilitate the provision of services.
- 6 Can a school district pay parents to transport their children?
- A: Yes. School districts may reimburse parents or youth who have cars and are able to provide transportation, as a cost effective means to meet the district's obligation.
- 7. Does providing or arranging for transportation mean door-to-door transportation,

similar to transportation for students receiving special education services?

- A: Generally, no. The McKinney-Vento Act does not require door-to-door transportation, unless that is the only appropriate arrangement for a particular student. For example, if a student is living on or near an extremely busy intersection, it may not be appropriate to expect the child to cross the intersection. The mode and details of transportation cannot present a barrier to the child's attendance in school. 42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(1)(I), (g)(7).
- **& Does providing access to public transportation qualify as providing transportation?**
- A: Yes, if the public transportation is appropriate. For example, young children cannot be expected to use public transportation alone. In such cases, school districts—should provide transit passes for an adult caregiver to escort the child, or provide another form of transportation. Similarly, if traveling to a school of origin on public transit requires an unreasonable length of time, another mode of transportation may be required. The mode and details of transportation cannot present a barrier to the child's attendance in school. 2003 Guidance, p. 16; 42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(1)(I), (g)(7).
- 9. If a district doesn't offer transportation to summer school for any students, does it have to provide summer school transportation for students in homeless situations?
- A: Generally, no. The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to provide comparable transportation services for students in homeless situations. If the school does not provide transportation to summer school for housed students, then it is generally not required to provide transportation to homeless students. However, if attendance in summer school is required for the student to pass to the next grade, and lack of transportation will prevent the child from participating, that presents a barrier to the student's academic success. The district must remove that barrier, so the student can avoid being retained in the same grade. 42 U.S.C. § 1–1432(g)(1)(I), (g)(7).
- 10. Is transportation required while a dispute is being resolved?
- A: Yes, to the extent it would be required if there were no dispute. While disputes are pending, students, must be enrolled in the school in which they are seeking enrollment. If that school is the school of origin, the school district(s) involved must provide transportation. 2003 Guidance, p. 18; 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii). If that school is the local school, transportation must be provided to the extent it is provided to housed students, and to the extent necessary to ensure it is not a barrier to attendance. 42 U.S.C. §§11432(g)(1)(I), (g)(4). (g)(7). These provisions apply whether the dispute is about school enrollment, school selection, or whether the child or youth is homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- 11. If a student's temporary housing is across state lines from the school of origin, is transportation still required?

- A: Yes. Since the McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law, it applies as in any other situation. Therefore, if the student is attending the school of origin, transportation must be provided at the parent's/guardian's request or at the liaison's request, in the case of an unaccompanied youth. Communication among the involved State Coordinators, liaisons and transportation directors can facilitate the provision of transportation.
- Our state legislature is considering a bill that would require school districts to transport students only in official school vehicles. How would this interact with McKinney-Vento's transportation requirements?
- A: Such a state law would not violate the McKinney-Vento Act. School districts would still have to continue to provide transportation to the school of origin at the request of parents, guardians, or liaisons (in the case of unaccompanied youth), while complying with the new state transportation law.

Federal Resources for Feeding Homeless Children and Youth

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-265) expands federal child nutrition programs in several ways to assist homeless and runaway children and youth by providing:

- Automatic eligibility for free school meals to homeless and runaway children
- Streamlined procedures to document such eligibility
- Full school year eligibility for free school meals
- Federal nutrition funds for shelters that serve children and youth up to age 18

Automatic Eligibility for Free School Meals

In BCPS, as soon as a homeless student is entered in the mainframe on the A23 panel, the free meal designation rolls over into the food and nutrition database, thus allowing immediate verification for the student.

Before the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act was passed, administrative guidance made homeless children, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, automatically eligible for free school meals. The Reauthorization Act establishes in law this categorical eligibility for homeless children, meaning that all children who are defined as homeless are eligible for free school meals.

The Reauthorization Act also confers automatic eligibility for free school meals on migrant children served through the Migrant Education Program and runaway children and youth served through the three grant programs established under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA): Basic Center Program, Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth, and Street Outreach Program.

Please see USDA Memo SP 4

(www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/policy/Reauthorization_04/2004-07-19.pdf) and FRAC's school meals brochure for homeless families

(www.frac.org/html/publications/homelesseducpamphletgovt.PDF) for more details.

Documentation of Free Meal Eligibility

The McKinney-Vento Act requires every school district to designate a local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youth. The liaisons ensure that children receive the educational and other services for which they are eligible—including free school meals.

School food service directors, principals and other school officials should work closely with local educational agency liaisons, homeless or domestic violence shelter directors and RHYA service providers to ensure that homeless and runaway children and youth are provided free meal benefits as promptly as possible.

For more details, please see *USDA Guidance on Determining Categorical Eligibility* (www.fns.usda.gov/end/Governance/policy/Reauthorization.04/2004-09-17.pdf) and *USDA-Memo SP* 4 (www.fns.usda.gov/end/Governance/policy/Reauthorization 04/2004-07-19.pdf).

Full School Year Eligibility

Once a student has been certified as eligible for free meals, including when based on designation as homeless or runaway by a local educational agency liaison, homeless or domestic violence shelter director or RHYA service provider, the eligibility remains effective for the remainder of the school year. This policy remains even if the student moves into permanent housing and are no longer homeless or served by RHYA programs. In such instances, a new eligibility determination shall be made in the subsequent school year. Schools are allowed to continue a student's eligibility from the previous school year for 30 operating days into the subsequent school year, or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever occurs first.

Please see USDA Memo SP 3

(www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/policy/Reauthorization_04/2004-07-07.pdf) for more details.

Federal nutrition funds for shelters serving children and youth

Homeless, runaway, and domestic violence shelters are eligible to use the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to feed children and youth up to 18 years of age in their facilities. The Reauthorization Act raised the age limit for children who may be fed through the program, and this expansion of eligibility from a maximum age of 12 to 18 years will help provide financial support for often strained shelter budgets.

Shelters will be reimbursed for meals and snacks served to children age 18 and under residing in the shelter. Participating shelters can receive a reimbursement of \$1.23 for breakfast, \$2.24 for lunch or supper and 61 cents for a snack. For each child served, shelters can receive reimbursement for up to three meals or two meals and one snack each day.

To apply for this program, contact your state CACFP agency. Please see *USDA Memo CACFF 5* (httpi/www.fns.usda.gov/end/Care/Reauth_Memos/2004-08-10.pdf) and FRAC's brochure on federal funds for shelters (www.frac.org/htinllfederal_food_programs/programs/homeless/CACFP_Bmchure_Blank.pdf) for more details. Also see FRAC's website (www.frac.org) for a CACFP in Shelters Outreach Toolkit, which includes a list of state CACFP agency contact names and numbers.

Who Can I Call If I Have Questions?

For more information about the School Lunch program, please contact: Food & Nutrition-Services at 754-321-0215

Or

Marcel Martin, Homeless Liaison

Student Support Services & ESE/Student Services

600 SE Third Ave., 7th floor Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33301

Phone: 754-321-2574 Fax: 754-321-2469

Email: Marcel.martin@browardschools.com

National Center for Homeless Education

Phone: 1-800-308-2145

Website: www.serve.org/nche

Food Research and Action Center

Phone: 202-986-2200 Website: www.frac.org

School Meals

- All parents know that nutritious meals are important for children to grow, keep healthy and learn.
- When times get tough it can be hard to get children all the healthy food they need.
- Free breakfast, lunch and afterschool snacks served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs may be one way to make sure your child can grow and learn.

New Rules Make Signing Up For Free School Meals Fast and Easy

The school lunch and breakfast programs have special new rules to help families facing housing problems and homelessness. These rules allow children and youth to quickly qualify for free school meals.

No documents or paperwork are required.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

3101Parit-Center Drive-Alexandria.VA-22302-1500



SUBJECT: Categorical Eligibility for Free Lunches and Breakfasts of Runaway,

Homeless, and Migrant Youth: Reauthorization 2004 Implementation

MemoSP4

TO: Special Nutrition Programs

All Regions

State Agencies

Child Nutrition Programs

All States

Section 107 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Act) amended section 9(b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make runaway, homeless and migrant children categorically eligible for free meal benefits under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and is effective July 1, 2004. In addition to establishing freemeal eligibility, the Act also establishes a requirement for documenting a child's status as runaway, homeless, or migratory.

Previously, through guidance, the Food and Nutrition Service extended categorical eligibility for freeschool meals to children considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. School officials were allowed to accept statements that children were homeless from the local educational liaison for the homeless or directors of homeless shelters where the children reside. The Act now establishes in law the categorical eligibility of these children for free school meals. Please see the previously issued memoranda of April 6, 1992, Documentation of Free and Reduce Price Meal Eligibility for Homeless Children and of April 4, 2002, Updated Guidance for Homeless Children in the School Nutrition Programs, on documentation for homeless children under McKinney Vento.

There were, however, no similar eligibility and documentation provisions for runaway youth or migrant children. At this time, we are in discussions with the Department of Health and Human Services, regarding implementation of that portion of the Act that addresses categorical eligibility for runaway youth served through grant programsestablished under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. We hope to provide guidance in the very near future on how to determine and document if a child is receiving services as a runaway and is therefore categorically eligible for free school meals.

Head Start Preschool Programs

Identification of Preschool Homeless Students:

Liaisons identify preschool aged homeless children by working closely with shelters and social service agencies in the area. School registrars are trained to inquire about the housing situation at the time they are enrolling homeless children and youth in school. The school can make a referral to Homeless Education Program or can provide the family with the number to the local Head Start office. The Broward County Public Schools Head Start Office number IS 754-321-1961.

Head Start

Head Start programs provide comprehensive, developmental services for low income pre school children ages three to five and social services for their families. The purpose of the Head Start program is to promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of health, educational, nutritional, social and other services. The cornerstone of the program is parent and community development.

If homeless families need assistance with pre-school children under the age of 4 refer them to the following office to find a head start program closest to where they are residing.

Laquita D. Lee, Director Pre-K-2 Department Shukree Cha Jua, Coordinator Tanisha McFarlane, Early Head Start/Head Specialist

Pre K-4 Program

If families need assistance enrolling PK 4 children enroll them in your school's PK 4 Program as you would any other Pre K 4 student. If you have any questions please contact the following:

Dispute Resolution Policy:

(6) Disputes (722(g)(3)(E))

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 zoneschool as requested by the parent or unaccompanied youth, pending resolution of the dispute;
- (b) The parent of the student or unaccompanied youth 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 and/or parent 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.

Families and youth in homeless situations may be unaware of their right to dispute placement and enrollment decisions. When disputes are raised, too often, students are kept out of school during the dispute resolution process. To avoid such disruptions, a policy has been established for resolving disputes.

- In order for students to remain in school they are permitted to enroll in the school of choice during dispute procedures.
- The family will complete a Dispute Resolution Form.
- The school will complete their portion of the form and fax it over to the District liaison.
- The District Liaison will arrange a meeting within seven days with school administration, and the family. A resolution will try to be obtained at his meeting.
- If no resolution has been secured the District liaison will forward all information to the Florida Department of Education State Coordinator with a notice of the right to appeal. The timeline for this process should be completed with 30 days.

Dispute Resolution Procedure

School enrollment of a homeless child or youth will be determined by the parent in the best interest of the child or youth. To the extent feasible, the child or youth will be enrolled in:

• The school last attended by the student when permanently housed or

- The last school in which the child was enrolled or
- The school serving the location where the student currently resides

If an enrollment dispute develops regarding the enrollment options available under the McKinney-Vento Act, the child or youth will immediately be admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent or unaccompanied youth, pending resolution of the dispute.

The school administrator will complete the following information and fax to:

The Homeless Education Program

Marcel Martin, District Liaison

Fax number: 754-321-2469

A resolution of the dispute will be facilitated by the Homeless District Liaison in accordance with the McKinney Vento Act requirements as expeditiously as possible.

Once BCPS reviews the request, BCPS (LEA) will provide a resolution. In the case of no resolution, an appeal can be filed at the state level by sending the Dispute resolution to the attention of the Florida Department of Education, Lorraine Husum Allen, MPA, Director, Homeless Education Program, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 352, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400.

Dispute Resolution

Subtitle VII B of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized by Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. This brief explanation provides the key provisions of the Act dealing with disputes over the enrollment and provision of services to a child or youth experiencing homelessness. It also offers strategies for implementing the law in a school district. Additional documents on various topics of the law may be found at http://www.serve.org/nche/briefs.php.

Key Provisions

-	Every state must establish procedures to promptly resolve disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless students.
	If a student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, the LEA must provide the parent or guardian with a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, a homeless student has the right to attend either the school of origin, if this is in the student's best interest, or the local attendance area school.
	☐ School of origin is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
	☐ Local attendance area school is defined as any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

	Whenever a dispute arises, the student must be admitted immediately to the requested school
	whenever a dispute arises, the student must be admitted infinediately to the requested school
	while the dispute is being resolved.
	while the dispute is being resorved.
_	
	The school must refer the student, parent, or guardian to the local homeless education liaison
	to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.
	Local liaisons must ensure that the same access to the dispute resolution process is provided
	Local Haisons must ensure that the same access to the dispute resolution process is provided
	to unaccompanied youth.
	to unaccompanied youth.

Families and youth in homeless situations may be unaware of their right to dispute placement and enrollment decisions. When disputes are raised, too often, students are denied school enrollment until the dispute is resolved. This interruption in education can harm students' academic progress and disrupt their classmates and teachers.

To avoid such disruptions, families and youth experiencing homelessness, as well as schools, need an established process for resolving disputes. The McKinney Vento Act requires school districts to enroll homeless students immediately in the requested school while the dispute is being resolved; this provides students with the educational stability they need during an otherwise tumultuous period in their lives. Without such a provision, parents, guardians, and youth may be discouraged from pursuing their rights for fear of protracted denials of education while disputes are resolved.

Local liaisons are instrumental in ensuring that disputes are resolved objectively and expeditiously. The required written notice protects both students and schools by outlining the specific reasons for the school's decision. It facilitates the resolution of disputes by providing decision makers with the information needed to make lawful, informed decisions that will serve the best interest of the student involved.

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Broward County Public Schools The Homeless Children and Youth In Transition Policy and Procedures Manual

Dispute Resolution Intake Form

School:		Date:			
Person completing for	m:				
Title:		Phone No			
Name of Student:					
Student ID No	Grade:	Age:D.O.B			
Child living with:	□ Both parents				
	□ Father				
	□ Legal guardian				
	☐ Other (specify):	<u> </u>			
Residing:	□ Shelter				
	□ Doubled up				
	□ Motel				
	□ Car				
	□ Campground				
	☐ Other (specify):				
Issue:	□ Health records	□ Guardianship			
	□ School records	□ School of origin			
	□ Birth certificate	□ Other residency			
	□ Social Security number	□ Transportation			
	□ Other (specify):				

Request is primarily:	—Technical assistance
	D. ' '
	Barrier issue
Comments:	
Comments.	
-	
Resolution Results:	
Resolution Results.	

Broward County Public Schools Homeless Education Caregiver's Authorization Form

This form is intended to address the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110) requirement that homeless children are to have access to education and other services. The McKinney Vento Act specifically states that barriers to enrollment must be removed. In some cases, a child or youth who is homeless may not be able to reside with his/her parent or guardian.

Instructions:

- To authorize enrollment of a minor in school, complete items 1 through 4 and sign the form.
- To authorize enrollment and school-related medical care, complete all items and sign the form.

The minor named below lives in my home, and I am 18 years of age or older.

1.	Name of minor:
2.	Minor's date of birth:
3.	My name (adult giving authorization):
4.	My home address:
5.	Check one or both (for example, if one parent was advised and the other could not be located):
	I have advised the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal custody of the minor of my intent to authorize medical care and have received no objection.
_	I am unable to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at this time to notify them of my intended authorization.
6.	My date of birth:
7.	My state driver's license or identification card number:
	eclare under penalty of perjury under the laws of this state that the foregoing information is and correct.
Sig	natureDate

When completed fax to the attention of Marcel Martin, Homeless Education at 754-321-2469.

Broward County Public Schools The Homeless Children and Youth In Transition Policy and Procedures Manual

Student Residency Questionnaire

This questionnaire is intended to address the McKinney Vento Act. Your answers will help the administrator determine residency documents necessary for enrollment of this student.

1. Presently, where is the student living? (Check one box):					
Section A	Section B				
 ☐ In a shelter ☐ With more than one family in a house or apartment ☐ In a motel, car or campsite 	□ Choices in Section A do not apply				
☐ With friends or family members (other than parent/guardian)	Stop: If you checked this section, you do not need to complete the remainder of this form.				
<u>Continue</u> : If you checked a box in Section A. Complete #2 and the remainder of this form.	Submit to school personnel.				
2. The student lives with:					
□ 1 parent □ a r □ 2 Parents □ ale □ 1 parent and another adult □ an					
School:					
Name of Student:	Male □ Female □				
Birth Date: / Age:Social S Month Day Year	ecurity # (if appropriate)				
Name of Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):					
Address:l	Phone/Pager				
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian	Date:				
School use only Campus Administrator's det	ermination of Section A circumstances:				
Fax to Homeless Education, Attn: Marcel Marc	artin, District Liaison - 754-321-2469.				
If the parent has checked Section B above, completion of this form must be completed and faxed the Homeless Edu campuses must keep original forms separately from the Stathe year.	cation Program immediately after completion. All				
Name and phone number of a School Contact Person who a	may know of the family's situation:				
Contact Person	——————————————————————————————————————				

Broward County Public Schools

Serial Num	The Schoo	I Board	ortation	Browa Enrollm	rd Cou	nty, Flo	rida	1	DateRequested Date to Segin	3
		Trans	portation	on Altern	atives		¥		Date to End	4
Last Name (pdnt)	5. First Name (print)		Boundary	y School	7.	Assigned School		8	Location # 18	Sex 10
Address Resident		11. City			12	Zip	11.	Student I.D Num	iber	- 14
Caseworker	45, 51	поле /Свенчолке	7		M. Emergency	Phone (Supervisor)	17.	Oracle 16	Eligization .	- 11
Careprovisies	20. 10	ne Code - Plane	3		24. Emergency i	Prione	22.	Home Language		23
(Check a		Car Sea	his area i	must be ad	dressed on the	Oxygen DV	ment shee Meelchair	Oversiz	ed W/C 🗆 🖸	ther
			Tran	sportat	ion Infor	mation				,
Address Policy Request		26.	ONY 20	26	28.		Special	Transport	ation Needs	56.
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Address Old			City 34	Źφ	36.					
Court Liaison/Homele	ss Projects Admin	Office	37.			Termination Only to be			ation is no longe	r needed.
		To t	e Compl	eted by Tra	insportation	Routing Staff			Details	
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AM Route 42 AM Time 4	Pick-up Address			44.	PM Route 4	IZ PM Time 48.	Drop-off /	Address		46.
I have reviewed the above conti bus scop, the Bus Operator will in order for student to be remo	contact dispatch each o		eeded servi	ce to the stud		Alwo, I have recei-				
		7.1								

The Homeless Children and Youth In Transition Policy and Procedures Manual

<u>Local Homeless Shelters</u> <u>Directory</u>

Important Hotline Numbers

Broward County Homeless Help Hotline

954-563-4357

1-888-537-0211 (toll free)

Covenant House

954-561-5559

Family Violence Shelters

Women In Distress 954-761-1133

Runaway Hotline (Florida)

1-800-RUNAWAY

1 888 786 2929

Healthcare for the Homeless Center

954-527-6042

1-866-662-5565

Missing Children Information Clearinghouse

1-888-FL-MISSING

1-888-356-4774

National Runaway Switchboard

1-800-621-4000

Parent Home

1-888-4-1-FAMILY 1-888-413-2645

Broward Health Department

954-467-4700

Seventh Ave. Family Health Center

954-759-6600

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Lorraine Husum Allen, MPA, Director, Homeless Education Program 325 West Gaines Street, Room 352 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Phone: 850-245-0668 Fax: 850-245-0697

065 463 3725

WHERE TO GO FOR SHELTER

EMERGENCY SHELTER

All shelters except Covenant House, Women In Distress, Lippman Center and HMHC Henderson Village are accessed through the Homeless Helpline. This is a centralized intake to register for available shelter beds in Broward County. Please call:

*2 1 1 BROWARD HOMELESS HELPLINE 954 563 4357 or 211

Centralized intake to check on all available emergency shelter beds in

Broward County, Toll free for homeless persons ... 1 888 537 0211

The following shelters do not require entry from the Homeless Helpline.

For your convenience here is a listing of all the shelters in Broward County but all require entrance through the Homeless Helpline. There are three Homeless Assistance Centers (HAC's) in Broward County.

- * Broward Outreach Center North.......954-935-3000

 Emergency shelter and a comprehensive Recovery Program for men,
 women and families. Admission through HOMELESS HELPLINE.
- The Shepherd's Way, A Ministry of Hope South Florida...954-566-2311

 Emergency housing for homeless families referred through the
 HOMELESS HELDLINE.

TRANSITIONAL SHELTER

All transitional shelters require a referral from an emergency shelter.

- (No referral necessary, walk ins accepted)

 1901 West Broward Blvd. Fort Landerdale, Fl. 33312

 Residential Facility for males ages 21 65 offering a spiritual based 12 stepwork therapy program Intake: M F from 7:30am 2:00pm.

Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center.

DAYTIME SHELTER

WHERE TO GO FOR FOOD or MEALS

- Hope Central, Meatloaf Dinner 1100 North Andrews Ave. Fort Landerdale. Thursdays at 5:30
- Ruth's Ministries At First Congregational Church, UCC 2501 NE 30th Street, Fort Landerdale, Lanch Thursdays 10:30 1:00.

WHERE TO GO FOR HEALTH CARE

Primary Health Care-Healthcare for the Homeless Center.....954-527-6041
 1101 West Broward Blird., Fort Land. Toll Free 1-866-662-5565. Mondays

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Fridays 8 a.m - 1:30 p.m.

 Broward County Health Dept.
 954 467 4700

 780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale.
 954 467 4800

 Dental Treatment.
 954 467 4820

 Immunizations
 954 467 4856

 TB Clinic
 954 467 4861

 WIC (women/infant/children).
 954 767 5110

 * Brow. Addiction Recovery Centers
 954 357 4879

 1000 SW 2nd Street, Fort Landerdale

Hours:

Mon, Weds, Thurs, Fri: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Tues: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Sat: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY FACILITIES

Broward General Medical Center	954-355-4400
1600 South Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale	
Imperial Point Medical Center	954 776 8610
6401 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale	
Coral Springs Medical Center	 954-344-310 0
3000 Coral Hills Drive, Coral Springs	
North Broward Medical Center	954 786 6800
201 E. Sample Road, Pompano Beach	
Memorial Hospital	954-985-5902
3501 Johnson Street, Hollywood	

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Association.	
7145 W. Oakland Park Blvd, Lauderhill, In	eformation referral
Archways	-
919 NE 13th Street, Fort Lauderdale	
Henderson Mental Health Crisis.	954-735-4331
Henderson Village	954 735 4331
Single adults with serious mental illness	
* Henderson Youth Programs	954-677-3113
2900 West Prospect Road	954 731 5100

WHERE TO GO FOR CLOTHING

Jubilee Center954 920 0106
 2020 Scott Street, Mon. Fri. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

WHERE TO GO FOR JOBS

WHERE TO GO FOR EDUCATION

 School Social Work and Attendance Dept.
 .754 321 2490

 Central Area
 .754 321 3870

 North Area
 .754 321 3470

 South Area
 .754 321 3614

 Enrollment and Boundary
 .754 321 3035

 Pupil Placement
 .754 321 2480

- Love Thy Neighbor

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For a full directory of services in Broward County, Please call 2-1-1 or visit www.211 broward.org.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Bus Service	954 357 8400
For information regarding bus service in Broware	l County.
• Receiving	-Mail-
Cooperative Feeding Program	954-792-2328
1 NW 33rd Terrace, Fort	
St. Laurence Chapel	954 785 8510
1698 Blount Road, Pompano	Beach.
Jubilee Centerat St. John's Episcopal Church	954 920 0106
Jubilee Center at St. John's Episcopal Church	954 920 0106

OTHER HELPFUL AGENCIES

- * Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center (HIV + chents)...954-728-803 1401 South Federal Highways, Ft. Landerdale. Medical care, case managers, support groups and education
- Legal Aid Services of Broward County Central Office.....954-736-2400
 491 North State Road 7, Plantation.

OBTAINING IDENTIFICATION

Birth Certificate

An original birth certificate can be obtained by written request to the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the county where you were born. There is usually a fee for this service. To find the address and phone number of the Bureau of Vital Statistics for the county of your birth, look in the local library for the directory of the city in which you were born. You can also phone information for the telephone number. Dial 1 (area code of the birth county) 555–1212 and ask for the Bureau of Vital Statistics. This is usually a free call.

Social Security Card

For inform	nation on obt	amng your Soci	al Security Car	d, you may phone or
go	in	person	to	the:-
Social Seco	urity Office .			1 877 253 4720
3201	W Commerci	al Blvd., Suite 10	0 Ft Lauderdal	l e, Fl 33309
Hour	rs: Monday F	riday 8:30 a.m.	3:30 р.т.	

U.S. citizens need a certified copy of their birth certificate or baptismal record Non U.S. citizens need their birth certificate and legal papers, such as a passport visa, green card or work authorization permit.

Identification Card

To get an identification card, you can apply for one at any driver's license office. You must:

- (a) be12 years of age or older
- (b) present your official Social Security card
- (e) have two items of identification, one of which must list your full name and date of birth, and a second supporting document, such as: Birth certificate, School record stating date of birth, Baptismal certificate, Family Bible record, Passport, Florida vehicle registration certificate, Court order which includes

name, Voter registration card, Marriage license or certificate, Florida or out of state driver license, Military ID card (d)—Fee is \$25.00 (original, renewal & replacement)

WHERE TO GO DURING A HURRICANE OR COLD WEATHER

- CENTRAL Salvation Army 1445 W. Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale
- NORTH Pompano Beach City Hall 100 West Atlantic Blvd,
 Pompano Beach, (south side parking lot)
- SOUTH NW corner of Dixic highway and Washington Street
 Corner of N. 21 Ave. & Lincoln Street
 Corner of N. 21 Ave & Sherman Street
 (both East of railroad tracks) Hollywood.

Get on the bus quickly. Busses will return evacuees to the pick-up site after the all clear has been given.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) PROGRAM IN BROWARD COUNTY

- English disease of coming in Bornand Country

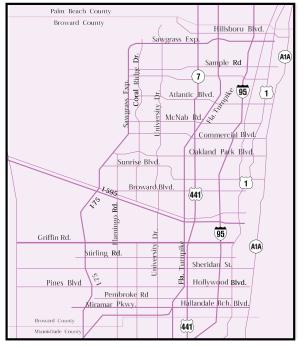
954-315-4530

For a full directory of services in Broward County, Please call 2-1-1 or visit www.211-broward.org.

Minority Development & Empowerment....

Care Resource

HOMELESS SURVIVAL GUIDE





Student Services Department Homeless Education Program

This is not a complete list of all services for the homeless in Broward County. If these groups cannot help you, they normally can find someone who will. This information is subject to change.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida

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