

Marion County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Homeless Students	Descriptor Code: 6.503	Issued Date: 06/20/17
		Rescinds: 6.503	Issued: 06/17/14

1 A homeless student shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education
2 as provided to other children and youths.¹

3 Homeless students are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime
4 residence.² Homeless students include:²

- 5 1. Students sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic
6 hardship, or similar reason; students living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping
7 grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; students living in
8 emergency or transitional shelters; or students abandoned in hospitals;
- 9 2. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not
10 designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodations for human
11 beings;
- 12 3. Students living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard
13 housing, bus or trains stations, or similar settings; and
- 14 4. Migratory students who are living in circumstances described above.

15 ENROLLMENT

16 Homeless students shall be immediately enrolled, even if the student is unable to produce
17 records normally required for enrollment (i.e. academic records, immunization records, health
18 records, proof of residency), or missed the district's application or enrollment deadlines.³
19 Parents/guardians are required to submit contact information to the district's homeless
20 coordinator.³

21 PLACEMENT

22 For the purposes of this policy, school of origin shall mean the school that the student
23 attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled,
24 including a preschool/pre-k program.⁹ School of origin shall also include the designated
25 receiving school at the next grade level when the student completes the final grade level
26 served by the school or origin.⁹

27 Placement shall be determined based on the student's best interest.⁴ At all times, a strong
28 presumption that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest
29 shall be maintained, unless doing so would be contrary to a request made by the student's
30 parent/guardian or the student in the case of an unaccompanied youth.⁵ When determining
31 placement, student-centered factors, including but not limited to impact of mobility on
32 achievement, education, health, and safety shall be considered.⁵ The choice regarding

1 placement shall be made regardless of whether the student lives with their homeless
2 parents/guardians or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.⁶

3 If it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin, or the school requested
4 by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, the director or his/her designee shall
5 provide a written explanation of the reasons for the determination, in a manner and form that
6 is understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth.⁵ The written explanation
7 shall include a statement regarding the right to appeal the placement decision.⁵ If the
8 placement decision is appealed, the district shall refer the parent/guardian or unaccompanied
9 student to the homeless coordinator, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as
10 expeditiously as possible and in accordance with the law.⁷ Upon notice of an appeal, the
11 director of schools shall immediately enroll the student in the school in which enrollment was
12 sought pending a final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals.⁷

13 **RECORDS**

14 Records ordinarily kept by the school shall be maintained for all homeless students.
15 Information regarding a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student
16 education record, and shall not be considered directory information.⁸

17 **SERVICES¹⁰**

18 The director of schools shall ensure that each homeless student is provided services
19 comparable to those offered to other students within the district, including transportation,
20 special education services, programs in career and technical education (CTE), programs for
21 gifted and talented students, and school nutrition.

22 The director of schools shall designate a district homeless coordinator who shall ensure this
23 policy is implemented throughout the district. The homeless coordinator shall ensure:

- 24 1. Homeless students are quickly identified and have access to education and support
25 services, to include Head Start and district pre-k programs;
- 26 2. Coordination with local social service agencies and other entities providing services to
27 homeless students;
- 28 3. Coordinate transportation, transfer of records, and other interdistrict activities with
29 other school districts;
- 30 4. Coordinate transportation to the school of origin or choice for homeless students;
- 31 5. Refer homeless students and their families to health care services, dental services,
32 mental health and substance abuse services, and housing services;
- 33 6. Assist homeless students in obtaining immunizations, medical or immunization
34 records, and any additional assistance that may be needed;
- 35 7. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated in places
36 frequented by parents/guardians of homeless students, including schools, shelters,
37 public libraries, and soup kitchens; and
- 38 8. Unaccompanied youth are enrolled and informed of their status and independent
39 students.

- 1 The director of schools shall develop procedures to ensure that homeless students are
- 2 recognized administratively and that the appropriate and available services are provided for
- 3 these students. The director shall ensure professional development is provided to school
- 4 personnel providing services to homeless students.

Legal References

1. 42 USCS §§ 11431 to 11435; McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, Part C, § 721
2. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95), § 725
3. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(C)(i), § 722(g)(3)(H)
4. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(A)
5. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(B)
6. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(F)
7. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(E)
8. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(G)
9. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(I)
10. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95, § 722(g)(4) - (6)

Cross References

Student Transportation 3.400
Parental Involvement 4.502
Promotion and Retention 4.603
School Admissions 6.203
Migrant Students 6.504