

Taylor County School Board Determining Feasibility of School Placement

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that once a child has been identified as homeless, residency requirements do not apply. The federal law requires that a child or youth experiencing homelessness attend one of the following:

- The *school of origin*: The school that the child last attended before experiencing homelessness or the school where the student was last enrolled.
- The *local attendance area school*: Any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

Enrollment must take place immediately. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires schools to consider the school of origin as the first option in school enrollment. Parents may choose the school of origin or the local attendance area school. The following individuals may be consulted in determining what placement is in the child's or youth's best interest:

- The homeless child or youth
- The parents or caretakers of the homeless child or youth
- Homeless shelter personnel
- Representatives of social service agencies
- Local homeless education liaisons
- School social workers
- School counselors

It is the school district's responsibility to determine the school of origin and local attendance area school and to resolve any conflict concerning the school placement that is in the best interest of the student. Whenever possible, the school district is to comply with the parents'/caretakers' wishes. If the school district and parents/caretakers do not agree on the appropriate placement, the state's dispute resolution procedure must be followed. The student should be enrolled in the school that the parents or caretakers (or the student himself/herself, in the case of an unaccompanied youth) have chosen during the resolution process. If the local attendance area school and the school of origin are in different districts and the school of origin is determined to be the best placement, the local homeless education liaisons from both districts must work together to arrange transportation. If the two districts can not reach a mutually agreed-upon arrangement, the two districts must split equally the cost and responsibility of transporting the student to the school of origin. The following form is provided to assist in determining which placement decision would be in the student's best interest.

Name of student: _____

Date: _____

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According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a homeless child or youth has the right to attend the school of origin or the local attendance area school, according to the best interest of the child:

The **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

The **local attendance area school** (local school) is defined as:

- any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend This form will assist in determining which placement decision would be in the student's best interest.

Please provide the following information for the attendance options for the student:

School that the child or youth attended when permanently housed:

Name of school and district:

Dates of attendance:

Living arrangement at the time:

School in which the child or youth was last enrolled:

Name of school and district:

Dates of attendance:

Living arrangement at the time:

Local Attendance Area School

Name of school and district:

Current living arrangement:

1. Are the school of origin and the local attendance area school in the same school district?
2. Which school does the child/youth want to attend? Why?
3. Which school does the parent want the child/youth to attend? Why?
4. What is the distance and time spent on travel from the current residence to the school of origin?

5. If transportation is currently unavailable to the school of origin, how can it be arranged?

6. What time of year is it (at the beginning of the school year, near the end of the school year, during the summer)?

7. How long did the child/youth attend the school of origin? Were meaningful social and educational relationships established?

8. Are there specific people in the school of origin who have been providing support or assistance to the family or child/youth experiencing homelessness?

9. Are there special programs, such as gifted, bilingual, or remedial education, in which the child/youth has been participating at the school of origin? If yes, please describe. Are these special programs also available at the local attendance area school?

10. Based on a knowledge of the family's situation, how long is the family likely to remain at the current residence?

11. What is the likelihood that the family experiencing homelessness will reestablish residency in the attendance area of the school of origin?

Based on answers to the previous questions, the school district recommends the following school:

Individuals consulted to determine that this placement is in the student's best interest were:

Signature(s) of the individual(s) making the recommendation: