

## CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

### HOMELESS STUDENTS

5.381\*

- 1) Homeless children and youth who live within the county shall be admitted to school in the District and shall have access to free public education. Under federal law, homeless children and youth must have access to appropriate education, including preschool, and be given a full opportunity to meet state and local academic achievement and accountability standards. They must be included in state- and district-wide assessments and accountability systems. Homeless students shall not be stigmatized, segregated, or separated in another educational program on the basis of their status as homeless.
- 2) *Homeless child* or youth is defined as one who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; and includes children and youth who:
  - a) are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
  - b) are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - c) are living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement;
  - d) have 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;
  - e) are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  - f) are migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described in a) through e). (Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Section 725(2), Public Law 107-110.)
- 3) The term “unaccompanied youth” means a student who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- 4) School of origin – The school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school where the child or youth was last enrolled.
- 5) Enroll and enrollment – Attending school and participating fully in school activities.
- 6) Immediate – Without delay.

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- 7) Parent – Parent or guardian of a student.
- 8) Liaison – The staff person designated by the district as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- 9) Homeless students shall be identified based on the McKinney-Vento Act definition shown above.
- 10) Homeless preschool-aged children and their families shall be provided access to educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the district.
- 11) The District shall ensure immediate enrollment of homeless students and shall assist such students in attaining documentation to meet state and local requirements for entry into school.
- 12) Barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students shall be removed and exemptions shall be provided as needed. Such barriers include proof of guardianship; lack of transportation; lack of immunizations; or documents such as immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, and other documentation.
- 13) A homeless child shall be given a thirty (30) school day exemption to provide proof of age, certification of a school-entry health examination and proof of immunization.
- 14) Each homeless student shall be provided the comparable services that are available for all other students including transportation, school nutrition programs (free meals), and educational services and programs for which the child meets the eligibility criteria such as exceptional education, gifted, career and technical education, Title I, Part A, English language learners programs; and before- and after-school programs offered to other students; and are given meaningful opportunities to succeed in school.
- 15) Homeless students shall have the right to remain in their school of origin to the extent feasible, unless this is contrary to the wishes of the parent and the right to dispute school selection, if other than school of origin, and these rights and the dispute process shall be communicated to the homeless parents or guardians or unaccompanied youth. The term “school of origin” means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school where the student was last enrolled. The District shall ensure that unaccompanied youth and the parents of homeless students are notified of the right to remain in the school of origin and of the dispute process.

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- 16) If homes child lives outside the two-mile radius of the school of origin and if requested by the parent of a homeless child or by the liaison on behalf of an unaccompanied youth, the District shall be responsible for providing transportation to and from the school of origin throughout the duration of homelessness. The District shall share the responsibility for transportation if a homeless student begins living in another district in a homeless status and continues to attend the school of origin.
- 17) Homeless students shall not be stigmatized, segregated, or separated in any educational program on the basis of their homeless status.
- 18) The District shall follow the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**1001.41, 1001.42, 1003.21, F.S.**

**LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:**

**1000.21, 1001.43, 1003.01, 1003.21, 1003.22, F.S.  
MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT, P.L. 100-77  
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001, P.L. 107-110**

**HISTORY:**

**ADOPTED: 11/07/05  
REVISION DATE(S): 12/08/08, 06/01/09  
FORMERLY:**