

Dallas County School System

2017 - 2020

ADMISSION POLICY FOR HOMELESS, MIGRANTS, AND ELL STUDENTS

Pursuant to the requirements of "The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015" as amended by Title IX the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, all homeless, migratory, and English language learners must have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. This shall be the policy of the Dallas County School System. Such children will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

The enrollment of homeless, migrant, immigrant, students in foster care, and English learners shall not be denied or delayed due to any of the following barriers:

- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Lack of immunization or health records
- Lack of proof of residency
- Lack of transportation
- Guardianship or custody requirements
- Social Security Number
- Unaccompanied youth; no guardians

The Dallas County School System will employ practices that increase the awareness of the Homeless Education program. The district shall notify parents/guardians of homeless children and youth of available resources and assist them in accessing the resources.

The Dallas County School System shall conduct an annual evaluation of its Homeless Education program to determine the effectiveness of the program. The system will adjust practices and procedures as needed to improve the effectiveness of implementation and student achievement.

Enrollment Dispute

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:

- The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.
- Local homeless liaison shall be informed immediately of the dispute.
- Dispute shall be resolved at the district level rather than the school level.
- The dispute resolution process shall be informal and accessible to all involved and carry out as expeditiously as possible.
- Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth shall be informed that they can provide written or oral documentation to support their position.
- Written notice of the discussion shall be as brief as possible, simply stated and provided in a language the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth can understand.
- Notice of the right to appeal to the State if the district-level resolution is not satisfactory shall be given to the parents, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.

DEFINITION:

Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act defines "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes—

- Children and youths who are: - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up"); - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; - living in emergency or transitional shelters; or - abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who 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;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

The McKinney-Vento Act no longer includes children and youths who are awaiting foster care placement in the definition of "homeless children and youths." For all non-"covered" States, this change is effective on December 10, 2016.

The McKinney-Vento Act includes a broad, ongoing requirement for SEAs and LEAs to review policies or practices that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, and school success of homeless children and youths, including barriers due to outstanding fees or fines or absences. (See, e.g., sections 721, 722(g)(1)(I)). It is important for SEAs and LEAs to consistently review their policies and practices with regular input from homeless parents, youths, and advocates so that new barriers, or barriers that the SEA or LEA staff may be unaware of, do not prevent children and youths from receiving the free, appropriate public education to which they are entitled. In addition, where laws, regulations, practices, or policies may act as a barrier to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths, SEAs and LEAs must undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths. (Sections 721, 722(g)(1)(I), 722(g)(7)). The process of reviewing and revising policies should include a review of school discipline policy.

REGULATIONS REGARDING THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

First Reading: 8/24/17

School Board Approved: 10/26/2017