



Book	Policy Manual
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Title	HOMELESS STUDENTS
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5111.01 - **HOMELESS STUDENTS**

Florida law requires that all children have access to a free public education. Under federal law (McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001), homeless children and youth must have access to a free and appropriate public education, including preschool, and be given a full opportunity to meet state and local academic achievement standards. They must be included in state and district wide assessments and accountability systems. Homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

Definitions:

- A. A homeless child or youth is defined as one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes children and youth who:
1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 2. Are living in motels, hotels, travel trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 3. Are living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement;
 4. 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;
 5. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 6. Are migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described in 1 through 5. (Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Section 725(2), Public Law 107-110)
- B. The term "unaccompanied youth" means a student who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- C. The term "school of origin" means the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school where the child or youth was last enrolled.
- D. The terms "enroll and enrollment" mean attending school and participating fully in school activities.
- E. The term "immediate" means without delay.

- F. The term "parent" means parent or guardian of a student.
- G. The term "liaison" means the staff person designated by our LEA and each LEA in the state as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Act.

The Brevard School District:

- A. Identifies homeless students based on the McKinney-Vento Act definition shown above.
- B. Ensures that all homeless children and youth are afforded the same free; appropriate public education; and receive comparable services (such as transportation services; educational services, including special/exceptional education and related services and programs for English language learners; career and technical education programs; gifted programs; school nutrition programs (free meals); Title I, Part A; and before and after school programs offered to other children and youth, and are given meaningful opportunities to succeed in school.
- C. Provides access of homeless preschool-aged children and their families to educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the school district.
- D. Seeks to remove barriers and provide exemptions as needed to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth, such as guardianship, transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, and other documentation.
- E. Ensures the immediate enrollment and retention of homeless students.
- F. Ensures that homeless children and youth are not stigmatized, segregated, or separated in another educational program, on the basis of their status as homeless.
- G. Ensures the rights of homeless students to remain in their school of origin with transportation services and their right to dispute school selection, if other than school of origin, and communicate these rights and the dispute process to the homeless parents or guardians or unaccompanied youth. If requested by the parent or homeless unaccompanied youth, the District shall provide transportation to and from the school of origin if feasible. If the homeless student is living in this district but attending school in another, or attending school in this district but living in another, this district will coordinate with the neighboring district to arrange transportation.
- H. Follows the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The Superintendent will appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth who will perform the duties as assigned by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Liaison will coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth as well as with community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.

McKinney-Vento is the primary piece of Federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. It was reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002.

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Legal

42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.