

## **ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

### **Homeless Education Plan**

**The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program** is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act*.

The mission of the St. Landry Parish School District Homeless Program is to provide homeless children and youth equal access to its educational programs and an opportunity to meet the same challenging state and district academic standards that all students are expected to meet.

Students will be protected from discrimination and will not be segregated on the basis of their homelessness. Local district policies and practices will not segregate or stigmatize homeless students in separate schools or in separate programs within schools.

Public notices of educational rights of homeless children and youth are posted in places where families and youth are likely to be present (e.g., schools, shelters, welfare offices) and in comprehensible formats (e.g., in Spanish, geared for low literacy, or other community need).

Contact information for the district's Homeless Liaison/Advocate is posted on the St. Landry Parish School Board's website as well as a description of how information about the role of the Liaison/Advocate and the rights of homeless students is conveyed to school district staff, homeless families, and unaccompanied youths.

Homeless students are identified during enrollment. The student shall be immediately enrolled even if the student lacks records normally required for enrollment. School secretaries and/or guidance counselors submit referral forms to the Homeless Liaison/Advocate. The Homeless Liaison/Advocate reviews and approves the forms. The student is then identified as homeless in the parish mainframe by entering the student's primary night time residence. A copy of the referral form is sent to the district Child Nutrition Supervisor to keep on file. Homeless students automatically qualify for free lunch. The Title I Homeless Program provides school fees, supplies, and uniforms that are needed for each registered homeless child.

Unaccompanied homeless students, despite lack of parent or legal guardian's supervision or permission, or "power of attorney" by supervising adult, will be enrolled immediately.

The Homeless Liaison/Advocate will contact the homeless family to see if any additional assistance is needed such as mental health support, dental and medical concerns, etc. When services are needed, the Homeless Liaison/Advocate will make the necessary arrangements for the services to be provided. In the event that school personnel

determine that services are needed for the student, they will make contact with the Homeless Liaison/Advocate who will make the necessary arrangements for the services to be provided. The St. Landry Parish School Board will provide services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, including transportation services, educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria (IDEA, English Learners, etc.), programs in career and technical education, programs for the gifted and talented, preschool programs, school nutrition programs, before and after school programs, etc.

For students requesting to stay in the school of origin, the Homeless Liaison/Advocate contacts the Transportation Supervisor who then makes arrangements for transportation to school of origin when feasible. Transportation shall be provided in accordance with district transportation guidelines. If a family chooses to stay in the school of origin after permanent housing has been found, transportation will be provided for the duration of that school year is requested by the family if feasible.

Homeless students' records shall be transferred immediately by the principal of the school of origin upon request from the enrolling school.

The St. Landry Parish School District will ensure that federal and state data collection and reporting requirements on homeless children and youth are met.

The Homeless Liaison/Advocate will work closely with shelters in the area as well as the St. Landry Parish Early Childhood Community Network to ensure that preschool-age children are identified and served.

### **Homeless Dispute Resolution Process Policy**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act acknowledges that disputes may arise between the school district and the homeless students/parents/guardians when the student is denied enrollment in school or is placed in a school other than the one requested by students/parents/guardians. The purpose of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is to ensure that homeless students enroll in school immediately and continue their education with as little disruption as possible. The St. Landry Parish School Board District dispute resolution process follows the guidelines set forth in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and in accordance with *The Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, Bulletin 741, Section 341, which is available online at the following website address:

<http://www.slpsb.com>. This bulletin contains detailed procedures established for resolving complaints filed against the Department of Education or a local education agency pursuant to provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §6301, et.seq. (ESEA).

## **Dispute Resolution Process**

1. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the child or youth must be immediately enrolled in the school in which he/she is seeking enrollment, pending the resolution of the dispute within five school days.
2. The parent/guardian of the child or the unaccompanied youth must be referred to the Homeless Liaison and provided a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth to appeal the decision.
3. Upon receiving the notice of the dispute, the Homeless Liaison will work with the Supervisor of Child Welfare and the Superintendent to carry out the dispute resolution process.
4. After reviewing pertinent information related to the dispute, the Homeless Liaison and the Supervisor of Child Welfare will provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written decision within five days of the receipt of the written complaint.
5. If the written resolution is not acceptable to the parent/guardian or the unaccompanied youth, the student's parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth may appeal to the State Homeless Coordinator.

See file JBCBB-Cf:JBC entitled "Homeless Children and Youth" for additional guidance.