

Homeless Student Procedures

Information: School-Age Youth

If you live in any for the following situations, in a shelter, in a motel or campground, or bus or train station, in a car, park, abandoned building, doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship you may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Veto Act.

As an eligible student, you have the right to:

1. Receive a free, appropriate public education.
2. Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
3. Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
4. Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
5. Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student's needs.

The LEA must continue a homeless child or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness and for the remainder of the academic year. The school will follow the stability provisions in enrolling and keeping the student in the school of origin if it is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth) the youth.

The school will provide a written explanation of the reasons for the LEA's decision, including information regarding the right to appeal to the parent or guardian if the LEA sends the child to a school other than the one requested. The LEA ensures that the local liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions.

The school must immediately enroll a child or youth, even without records that are normally required for enrollment or if the child or youth has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness. School will contact the school last attended for relevant records and assist with obtaining immunizations or other required health records and make any records ordinarily kept by the school available in a timely fashion when the child or youth enrolls in a new school or LEA.

Disputes:

The child or youth must be immediately enrolled in the school which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals. The parent or guardian of the child or youth (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) must be provided with a written explanation or any decisions related to eligibility, school selection or enrollment made by the school, LEA or state educational agency, including the rights to appeal the decision.

The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth must be referred to the local liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process; and in the case or an unaccompanied youth, the local liaison must ensure

that the student is immediately enrolled in the school in which the youth seeks enrollment pending resolution of the dispute.

Information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation will be treated as a student education record and not deem it to be directory information. Services will be provided comparable to those received by other students in school and coordinate with local social services agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youths and their families.

The LEA will follow all requirements mandated for inclusion in Education for Homeless children and youths that the State has regarding the education of those students.

The school liaison will ensure all homeless children and youth receive the services they need and follow all requirements mandated for inclusion in Education for Homelessness.
