

Obion County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Homeless Students	Descriptor Code: 6.503	Issued Date: 04/10/06
		Rescinds: 6.503	Issued: 03/01/04

~~In order to ensure that~~ A homeless students shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other students, ~~the following shall apply:~~ children and youths.¹

Homeless students are individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.² ~~and include the following:~~ Homeless students include:²

1. Students ~~who are~~ sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; ~~are~~ students living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; ~~are~~ students living in emergency or transitional shelters; ~~are~~ or students abandoned in hospitals; ~~or are awaiting foster care placement.~~
2. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not ~~designed~~ designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
3. Students ~~who are~~ living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings; ~~and~~
4. Migratory students ~~who are living in circumstances described above~~ who are living in circumstances described above ~~meet one of the above described circumstances.~~

ENROLLMENT

Homeless students shall be immediately enrolled, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (i.e. academic records, immunization records, health records, proof of residency), or missed the district's application or enrollment deadlines.³ Parents/guardians are required to submit contact information to the district's homeless coordinator.³

PLACEMENT

For the purpose of this policy, school of origin shall mean the school that the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including a preschool/pre-k program.⁹ School of origin shall also include the designated receiving school at the next grade level when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.⁹

Placement shall be determined based on the student's best interest.⁴ At all times, a strong presumption that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest shall be maintained, unless doing so would be contrary to a request made by the student's parent/guardian or the student in the case of an unaccompanied youth.⁵ When determining placement, student-centered factors, including but not limited to impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety shall be considered.⁵ The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the student lives with their homeless parents/guardians or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.⁶

If it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin, or the school requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, the director or his/her designee shall provide a written explanation of the reasons for the determination, in a manner and form that is understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth.⁵ The written explanation shall include a statement regarding the right to appeal the placement decision.⁵ If the placement decision is appealed, the district shall refer the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student to the homeless coordinator, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible and in accordance with the law.⁷ Upon notice of an appeal,

1 the director of schools shall immediately enroll the student in the school in which enrollment was sought
 2 pending a final resolution of dispute, including all available appeals.⁷

3 The district will consider the best interests of the student with parental involvement in determining whether
 4 the student should be enrolled in the school of origin or the school that nonhomeless students who lives in
 5 the attendance area in which the homeless student is actually living are eligible to attend. To the extent
 6 feasible, and in accordance with the student's best interest, the student should continue his/her education in
 7 the school of origin, except when contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian. If the student is
 8 unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, the homeless coordinator will consider the views of the student in
 9 deciding where the student shall be educated. The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of
 10 whether the student lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

11 The school selected shall immediately enroll the homeless student, even if the student is unable to produce
 12 records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization records, proof
 13 of residency or other documentation. However, the district may require a parent or guardian of the student
 14 to submit contact information.

15 The district shall provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, to the
 16 homeless student's parent/guardian, or to the homeless student if unaccompanied, if the district sends the
 17 student to a school other than the school of origin ("*school of origin*" is defined as the school that the
 18 student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled) or other
 19 than a school requested by the parent or guardian.

21 If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the student shall be immediately
 22 admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The student or
 23 parent/guardian shall be referred to the district homeless coordinator, who will carry out the dispute
 24 resolution process as expeditiously as possible.

25 RECORDS

26 Any Records ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth
 27 certificates, guardianship records and evaluations for special services or programs of each homeless child
 28 or youth shall be maintained so that appropriate services may be given the student, so that necessary
 29 referrals can be made and so that records may be transferred in a timely fashion when a homeless student
 30 enters a new school district. Copies of records shall be made available upon request to students or parents
 31 in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. for all homeless students. Information
 32 regarding a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record, and shall not
 33 be considered directory information.⁸

34 SERVICES

35 Each homeless student The director of schools shall ensure that each homeless student is be provided
 36 services comparable to services those offered to other students within the district including, but not
 37 limited to, transportation, services, educational services for which the student
 38 meets eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabili-
 39 ties and gifted and talented students; vocational programs and technical education; school meals programs;
 40 preschool programs; before and after school care programs and programs for students with limited
 41 English proficiency. Homeless students will not be segregated in a separate school or in a separate
 42 program within a school based on the student's status as homeless. special education services, programs in
 43 career and technical education (CTE), programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition.

45 The director of schools shall designate a district homeless coordinator who shall ensure this policy is
 46 implemented throughout the district. The homeless coordinator shall ensure:

- 47 1. Homeless students are quickly identified and have access to education and support services, to
 48 include Head Start and district pre-k programs;

- 1 2. Coordination with local social service agencies and other entities providing services to homeless
- 2 students;
- 3 3. Coordinate transportation, transfer of records, and other interdistrict activities with other school districts;
- 4 4. Coordinate transportation to the school or origin or choice for homeless students;
- 5 5. Refer homeless students and their families to health care services, dental services, mental health and
- 6 substance abuse services, and housing services;
- 7 6. Assist homeless students in obtaining immunizations, medical or immunization records, and any
- 8 additional assistance that may be needed;
- 9 7. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated in places frequented by
- 10 parents/guardians of homeless students, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens; and
- 11 8. Unaccompanied youth are enrolled and informed of their status and independent students.

12
 13 The director of schools shall develop procedures to ensure that homeless students are recognized
 14 administratively and that the appropriate and available services are provided for these students. The director
 15 shall ensure professional development is provided to school personnel providing services to homeless
 16 students.

17
 18 **TRANSPORTATION**

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 20 In the event that it is in the best interest of the homeless student to attend the school of origin, transportation
 21 to and from school shall be provided at the request of the parent/guardian or, in the case of an unaccom-
 22 panied student, the homeless coordinator. If the student's temporary housing is outside the district of the
 23 school of origin, the [district name] will work with the school of origin to agree on a method to apportion
 24 the responsibility and costs for transporting the student. If an agreement cannot be reached, the costs will
 25 be shared equally.

26
 27 **-COORDINATOR**

28
 29 ~~The Board designates the attendance supervisor to act as the district's homeless coordinator.~~

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 31 ~~The district shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless~~
 32 ~~families of the duties of the district homeless coordinator. The homeless coordinator shall ensure that:~~

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- 34 1. ~~Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with~~
 35 ~~other entities and agencies.~~
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- 37 2. ~~Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools in the~~
 38 ~~district.~~
- 39
- 40 3. ~~Homeless families and students receive educational services for which such families and students~~
 41 ~~are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start and preschool programs administered by the district~~
 42 ~~and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and other appropriate~~
 43 ~~services.~~

- 1 4. ~~The parents or guardians of homeless students are informed of the educational and related~~
 2 ~~opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to~~
 3 ~~participate in the education of their children.~~
- 4
- 5 5. ~~Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where such students~~
 6 ~~receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens.~~
- 7
- 8 6. ~~Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law.~~
- 9
- 10 7. ~~The parent or guardian of a homeless student and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed~~
 11 ~~of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in~~
 12 ~~accessing transportation to the school selected.~~
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- 14 8. ~~Unaccompanied youths will be assisted in placement or enrollment decisions, their views will~~
 15 ~~be considered and they will be provided notice of the right to appeal.~~
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- 17 9. ~~Students who need to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, will receive~~
 18 ~~assistance.~~
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Legal Reference:

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- 27 1. ~~McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Improvements~~
 28 ~~Act of 2001 Subtitle B §§ 721-725~~

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- 31
1. 42 USCS §§ 11431 to 11435; McKinney-Vento
 Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001,
 Part C, § 721
2. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95), § 725
3. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(C)(i), § 722(g)(3)(H)
4. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(A)
5. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(B)
6. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(F)
7. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(E)
8. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(G)
9. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(3)(I)
10. McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L.
 114-95, § 722(g)(4) - (6)

Cross Reference:

Student Transportation 3.400
 Parental Involvement 4.502
 Promotion and Retention 4.603
 School Admissions 6.203
 Migrant Students 6.504