

Mobile County Public School System
Student Support Services
Homeless Education Program



Homeless Awareness Training

2016-2017



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

defines and protects the rights of homeless students to enroll, attend and succeed in our public schools

MCPSS identified and served **approximately 4,200** students last school year who are protected under this law



Eligibility Determination

- ❖ Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**

Working definitions:

- **Fixed:** Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change
- **Regular:** Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis (*e.g. nightly*); consider the relative permanence of the living arrangement
- **Adequate:** Sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments

Can the student go to the SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)?

Examples of Homeless Situations

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate housing
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned by parent/guardian
- Youth not in physical custody of parent/guardian (unaccompanied youth)
- Awaiting foster care placement (until 12/10/16)
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.
- ELL/ESL/Migrant children living in above circumstances





Identifying Temporarily Sheltered Students

- ❖ **Student Residency Questionnaire**
 - Routine standardized inquiries about residency help:
 - ✓ reduce stigma/embarrassment
 - ✓ identify students who may be living in temporary living situations
 - ✓ determine eligibility for homeless education services
- ❖ Faculty & staff observations
- ❖ Bus drivers and cafeteria managers noticing children who are dirty and/or hungry
- ❖ Student-peers who are concerned about friends
- ❖ Agency Referrals



Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

- ❖ Enrollment requirements (school records, immunizations, proof of residence and guardianship)
- ❖ High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and educational continuity
- ❖ Lack of access to programs
- ❖ Lack of transportation
- ❖ Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.
- ❖ Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- ❖ Prejudice and misunderstanding



Immediate Access

**No documentation
required!**





Choice of Schools

The school that is in the student's best interest; not what is feasible for the district

School of Origin

(school attending when homelessness began)

Vs.

School of Residency

(zoned school where currently living)



Services Provided

- ❖ Enrollment/Custody/Caregiver's Authorization Assistance
- ❖ Uniforms/School Supplies
- ❖ Bus Passes/Transportation Arrangements
- ❖ School/Document/Graduation/Field Trip Fees
- ❖ Medical/Dental/Mental Health Referrals
- ❖ Case Management for Students and Families
- ❖ Emergency Food/Housing/Utility Assistance Referrals
- ❖ Advocacy (Administrative, IEP, Court, Agencies, Landlords)
- ❖ Professional Development/Homeless Awareness Trainings
- ❖ Parent Training

References

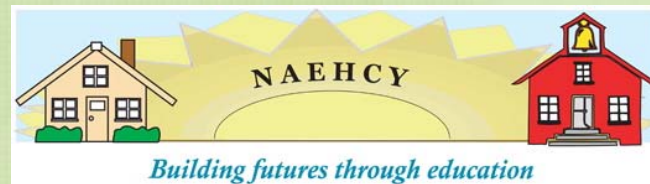
National Center for Homeless Education
of SERVE

www.serve.org/nche



National Association for the Education of
Homeless Children
and Youth

www.naehcy.org





Contact Information

Student Support Services Homeless Education Social Workers

Ciji Bendolph, LGSW
cbendolph@mcpss.com
251-459-4463

Barbara Caddell, LCSW-PIP
bcaddell@mcpss.com

Larissa Dickinson, LCSW-PIP
ldickinson@mcpss.com
251-490-9952

Denise Riemer, LCSW-PIP
driemer@mcpss.com
251-508-6671

Emergency Calls
251-221-4275