

PIEDMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

McKinney Vento Act: Understanding Homelessness

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is funded under the McKinney –Vento Homeless Assistance Act to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the same free, appropriate public education that is provided to all children.

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines “homeless children and youth” (school-age and younger) as:

A. Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e. “doubled-up”).
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
4. Abandoned in hospitals.
5. Awaiting foster care placement.

B. Children and youth who 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.

C. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

D. Migrant/ESL/ELL children who qualify as homeless if they are living in circumstances described above.

E. The term unaccompanied youth includes a young person not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian due to identified circumstances. This would include runaways living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to as “throwaway children and youth”); and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

Survey Questionnaire Does Not Apply: If questions 1,2, and 3 do not apply, please check the box that states, “Does Not Apply, and parent/guardian are to sign the form. Please list the student/s name.

Survey Questionnaire DOES APPLY: If questions 1,2, and 3 apply, please fill out the questionnaire completely. Return the questionnaire to your child’s homeroom teacher or school office personnel.

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If you have further questions or concerns please contact Ms. Alana Norman, Piedmont City Schools Homeless Liaison by emailing (anorman@pcsboe.us), or call for an appointment (256)447-7483.

Admission Policy for Homeless, Migrants, Immigrants, and English Learner Students and Children in Foster Care –

All homeless, migrant, immigrant, and English Learner students and children in foster care will have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth and will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

The enrollment of homeless, migrant, immigrant, and English learner students and children in foster care shall not be denied or delayed due to any barriers that are specifically prohibited by applicable law, which may include the following:

- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Lack of immunization or health records
- Lack of proof of residency
- Lack of transportation
- Guardianship or custody requirements
- Lack of social security card

Homeless Students –

Enrollment. Homeless students will be permitted to enroll without regard to residency status and will not be denied services offered to other students in the school system. Homeless students may also be entitled to other accommodations under federal law.

Homeless students will continue in the school they attended before becoming homeless for the duration of their homelessness, or for the remainder of the academic year if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year. Otherwise, a homeless student may be enrolled in any school in the system that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is living are eligible to attend.

Homeless Dispute Resolution. When a dispute arises regarding school placement, the system will immediately enroll the homeless student in the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, pending resolution of the dispute. The school will provide the parent, guardian, or

Unaccompanied Youth Students with a written explanation of the decision, a statement of the right to appeal, and the procedure for appealing the placement decision. The principal of the school will notify the Board's Homeless Liaison of the dispute.