

JFABD ADMISSION & SUCCESS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

It is the CBOCES Board of Directors' intent to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth experiencing homelessness in school in accordance with the Title X McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act state and federal law.

Homeless Education Liaison

The Board of Directors shall designate at least one staff member in the CBOCES to serve as a Homeless Education Liaison and fulfill the duties set forth in state and federal law.

The liaison shall work with the member and partnering district's Homeless Education Liaisons to identify children experiencing housing instability and facilitate each homeless child's access to and success in school.

The liaison shall assist member and partnering districts to mediate disputes concerning school enrollment, assist in making transportation arrangements, assist in requesting the student's records, provide information, resources, referrals on services and opportunities, and assist districts with any homeless child who is not in the custody of a parent or guardian with enrollment decisions, attendance and credit accrual.

CBOCES' Homeless Education Liaison will serve preschool to high school aged children.

Enrollment of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Students defined in state and federal law as homeless children shall be admitted without payment of tuition to all CBOCES schools/programs.

As used in this policy, the term "school of origin" means the school the student attended at the time of becoming homeless. If the student became homeless at a time when the student was not in school, the last school attended shall be the school of origin.

A homeless student currently living outside of the district in which the school of origin is located may be deemed to reside, and may attend school in:

- the district where the child is presently located, or
- the district in which the school of origin is located; except that a homeless student who becomes permanently housed outside that district during the school year may only continue for the remainder of the year.

In determining the best interests of the homeless student, except when it is against the wishes of the student's parent or guardian, the CBOCES shall keep the homeless student in the school of origin to the extent feasible.

If the CBOCES sends the homeless student to a school other than the school of origin or to a school other than the one requested by the student's parent or guardian, the CBOCES shall provide written explanation to the parent or guardian, including the right to appeal the decision.

If a homeless student is not in the custody of a parent or guardian, the CBOCES liaison shall assist with enrollment decisions, consider the wishes of the student, and give the student notice of the right to appeal.

If an enrollment dispute arises between the homeless student's parent or guardian and the CBOCES, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the CBOCES school selected by the parent or guardian until the dispute is resolved.

If an enrollment dispute arises between a student not in the custody of a parent or guardian and the CBOCES, the student shall immediately be enrolled in the CBOCES school selected by the student until the dispute is resolved.

Enrollment shall be immediate even if the student lacks records routinely required prior to enrollment. The CBOCES school shall then make arrangements to obtain any necessary records and to have the student receive any necessary immunizations.

Student information will be kept confidential to prevent stigmatization and isolation. Students will not be isolated into a specific program or group for students experiencing housing transition.

Students will be automatically offered the free meals program, without having to fill out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application and Verification Form.

Transportation

If the student resides in the district where the school of origin is located, the district shall, upon request, provide or arrange for the student's transportation to and from school.

If the student attends the school of origin but seeks shelter or is located in another district, both districts must, upon request, either agree on a method to apportion cost and responsibility for the student's transportation or share the cost and responsibility equally.

Services

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible, comparable to services provided to other students in the school, regardless of residency, including transportation services, education services, specialized services, Title services, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, and school nutrition programs.

Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

Attendance issues will be proactively addressed. School staff will involve students in the identification of educational barriers and in making needed adjustments for students' academic success.

To remove educational barriers, the Coordinator of Title 1 Part A Homeless set aside funds and the Homeless Education Liaison will collaborate to secure resources needed to support the academic success of students without stable homes.

The Homeless Education Liaison(s) will coordinate with the districts' preschool programs and other local preschool programs, such as Head Start, to ensure McKinney-Vento preschool students are enrolled in preschool.

The CBOCES shall coordinate with districts and with local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless children as needed.

LEGAL REFS.: 42.U.S.C. §11431 et seq. (*McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by No Child Left Behind Act of 2002*)
 C.R.S. 22-1-102.5 (*definition of homeless child*)
 C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(dd) (*duty to adopt/revise policies to remove barriers to access and success in schools for homeless children*)
 C.R.S. 22-33-103.5 (*attendance of homeless children*)
 C.R.S. 26-5.7-101 et seq. (*Homeless Youth Act*)

Adopted: 6/19/03, Revised 7/8/09, 4/8/10 & 4/8/13
Centennial BOCES