

Descriptor Term: HOMELESS STUDENTS	Descriptor: JLG	Issued: Draft 7/18/2012
	Rescinds: JLG	Issued: 08/22/2000

BOARD POLICY

1. The District shall identify, serve, and assist all students eligible under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. ~~Admission Procedures:~~ Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless **unaccompanied** youth will have access to a free, appropriate public education equitable to that provided to the children of the residents of the District consistent with the **federal** and state school attendance laws.

2. ~~Maintenance and Release of School Records:~~ School records of each homeless student shall be maintained so that the records are available in a timely fashion when a student enters a new school district.

3. ~~Support Services to Homeless Children:~~ Each homeless child shall be provided services comparable to services of other students in **the** ~~this~~ District, including educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as compensatory educational programs for the disadvantaged, educational programs for the handicapped and the students with limited English proficiency; programs for the gifted and talented; and school meal programs.

4. ~~Stigmatization and Isolation:~~ Each homeless child enrolled shall be provided technical, educational and supportive services to homeless children and youth in an environment and manner that does not stigmatize, isolate, label or penalize the child, youth or family for being homeless.

5. The Board authorizes the superintendent to establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

1. Definitions

1.1. The term "homeless ~~The U. S. Department of Education defines a individual~~ children and youths" means ~~as one~~ **individuals** who lack a fixed, regular and adequate **nighttime** residence, and includes:

(i) **children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;**

(ii) **children and youths 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;**

(iii) **children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and**

~~in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations~~

including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill, or are residents of an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized,

(iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

1.2. The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by law.

2. In order to fulfill legal requirements under McKinney-Vento to determine whether there are homeless students within the District, the District will use enrollment forms that ask the nighttime residence of all newly enrolled students as well as when an enrolled student's address changes.

3. The District's liaison for homeless children will coordinate training to school personnel and the community to promote awareness and sensitivity of homelessness.

~~Resolution of Disputes:~~ 4.1. When a homeless student is involved in any disputes in regard to providing public education, ~~the Board and its administrators~~ he/she shall be afforded the safeguards of due process as required by applicable law.

4.2. ~~In any case,~~ The student shall be made aware of rights and shall be given an opportunity to present his/her side of the case prior to any action being taken by school officials.

4.3. In the event the dispute cannot be solved locally, a review of the dispute by the Department of Education may be requested.

5. Questions about the McKinney-Vento Act may be addressed to the District's liaison for homeless children and youth:

Director of Federal Programs
Tupelo Public School District
P. O. Box 557
Tupelo, MS 38802
662-841-8850

EXHIBITS

JLG Exhibit 1.0712 Unaccompanied Youth Identification

REFERENCES

McKinney-Vento Act 42 USC §11432, as reauthorized
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 § 1309

FORMS

JFAA Form 1.0712 Pre K – 12 Grade Student Enrollment Form

JLG Form 1.0712 McKinney-Vento Permission to Enroll

JLG Form 2.0712 Homeless Dispute Enrollment Resolution Policy and Form