

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

Garfield and Palouse School District

Policy and Procedure: 3115

Please notify

Palouse Homeless Liaison: Beverly Fox, 878-1921

Garfield Homeless Liaison: Zane Wells, 635-1331

if you know of any children meeting the following criteria.

If you meet the following criteria as homeless, please register your child as such.

Sign your child up for Child Find and for Pre-school.

Come to the Palouse and Garfield schools for more information.

Children and youth in many different living situations are considered homeless under federal law: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

Who is homeless?

An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth must meet the McKinney definition including:

- *Sharing housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship or similar reason*
- *Living in motels, trailer parks, campgrounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations*
- *Living in emergency or transitional housing*
- *Abandoned in hospitals*
- *Awaiting foster care*
- *Having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place NOT designated for regular sleeping accommodations*
- *Living in cars, parks, public spaces, bus stations, substandard housing, etc...*
- *Migratory children living in above described situations*

Federal law requires districts to provide educational stability for homeless students.

- School districts are required to keep homeless students in their school of origin, to the extent feasible, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes. Students are also permitted to remain in their schools or origin for the duration of their homelessness and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.
- School districts are required to provide transportation to the school of origin, at the request of the parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the district's homeless liaison.
- States and school districts are required to develop, review and revise their policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations.
- School districts must immediately enroll students in homeless situations, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents. The term "enroll" is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.
- School districts are required to obtain school records from the previous school. Students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.
- The school district's homeless liaison must immediately assist in obtaining immunizations or immunization records for those students who do not have them. Students must be enrolled in school in the interim.
- A school must provide a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal if a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian.
- A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is automatically eligible for Title I services, regardless of their current academic performance.

January 25, 2010