BERRYHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT DISTRICT NO.10

Berryhill Public Schools District Protocol

McKinney-Vento Education

for

Homeless Children and Youth

August 2023

Overview

Following is a summary of the McKinney-Vento Act's requirements for LEAs in serving homeless children and youth:

The law requires State Plans to ensure that LEAs

- give homeless children and youth opportunities to meet the state's challenging academic standards;
- identify homeless children and youth;
- resolve disputes promptly;
- increase the awareness of all school personnel of the needs of homeless children and youth;
- enable homeless children and youth to participate in federal, state, and local nutrition programs for which they are eligible;
- ensure that preschool-aged homeless children have access to public preschool programs;
- identify unaccompanied homeless youth and youth separated from public schools and link them to appropriate secondary education and support services;
- remove barriers to receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school;
- remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school, career, and technical education, advanced placement, online learning, and charter school programs, if available;
- address problems resulting from enrollment delays caused by requirements for immunizations or other required health records; residency requirements; lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documents; guardianship issues; or uniform or dress code requirements;
- revise policies to remove barriers to identification and school retention of homeless children and youth, including barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences;
- ensure that homeless children and youth are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their homelessness;
- provide transportation, at the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, to and from the school of origin; and
- ensure that school counselors advise homeless youths to prepare for college. [42 U.S.C. § 722(g)(1)]

The law also mandates that LEAs

- continue a child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, according to his or her best interest, or enroll the child or youth in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area where he or she is living are eligible to attend;
- The term "school of origin" means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.
- "School of origin" includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools when a child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.
- immediately enroll a child or youth even if he or she is unable to provide records normally required for enrollment or has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness;
- contact the last school attended to obtain relevant records if enrolling a homeless child or youth;
- assist with obtaining immunization records, other health records, or immunizations, if needed.
- make any record ordinarily kept by the school available when a child or youth enters a new school or school district;
- conduct disputes over eligibility, school enrollment, or school selection according to the LEA's and SEA's dispute resolution policy, providing written notice to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with the school district's decision and instructions for how to initiate a dispute; and
- treat information regarding a student's living situation as a student educational record and not directory information. [42 U.S.C. § 722(g)(3)]

Definition of Homeless

The term “homeless children and youth”—

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and

(B) includes—

(i) children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a 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, or are abandoned in hospitals;
(ii) children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
(iii) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
(iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above. [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)]

The term “unaccompanied youth” includes a homeless child or youth, not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)]

Local Homeless Liaison

The District Homeless Liaison will be an administrator appointed by the Superintendent to provide leadership for the following activities.

- conduct outreach in the community to identify homeless children and youth, including displaying educational rights posters in places where homeless families are likely to go;
- develop policies and procedures for serving homeless children and youth;
- provide posters on the educational rights of homeless children and youth for display in school sites and community locations;
- provide faculty and staff with awareness information and training on the needs of homeless children and youth and the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act (provide training to the building point of contact, when appointed);
- provide customized technical assistance on specific situations related to a homeless child or youth in the district;
- provide information on effective practices in serving homeless children and youth;
- revise LEA policies that pose barriers to the education of homeless children and youth;
- facilitate the McKinney-Vento dispute resolution process when a disagreement occurs between the LEA or school and a homeless parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth over eligibility, school enrollment, or school selection;
- communicate with the State Coordinator to keep updated on laws, policies, and resources related to serving homeless children and youth, and communicate these to administration, faculty and staff;
- collect data on homeless children and youth to provide to the state and U.S. Department of Education, and provide information on numbers and trends of homeless children and youth in the LEA;
- coordinate with programs such as Title I, special education, child nutrition, and pupil transportation to ensure that homeless children and youth are linked with services expeditiously;
- provide leadership for the development of community collaborations and business partnerships to increase resources for homeless children and youth and to make referrals for services, such as health care, dental services, mental health and substance abuse assistance, housing, and preschool;
- identify local clinics, physicians, dentists, eye doctors, and psychological counselors who will treat homeless families and unaccompanied youth at low or no cost.

Implementation Steps

The District Housing Questionnaire is included in all enrollment packets and outreach posters are posted at each school site, local businesses, and churches. The information from the questionnaire is referred to the District Liaison who will work with the site counselor, principal, and food services personnel to ensure the students identified as homeless receive access to all services for which they are eligible. The initial process will include removing barriers to enrollment, transportation, and access to all educational programs. Identification and outreach will be conducted sensitively and without stigma, to create an environment in which families, children, and youth will be comfortable seeing support. Students identified as homeless will not be segregated for class placement and every effort will be made to ensure students have full access to academic and extracurricular activities.

Strict confidentiality procedures are followed to ensure student records are protected within the Student Accounting System. The living situation of students who are identified as Homeless or Unaccompanied Youth shall not be considered to be directory information and will be marked with a restricted access code in the Student Accounting System accessible by designated personnel at the direction of the District Homeless Liaison.

The site and District personnel will meet with the parent or guardian to ensure the District has all pertinent information needed best to meet the needs of the family and students and that parents are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their child. This may include engaging in the Best Interest Determination process for school placement. The District will follow Best Interest Determination guidelines to ensure that the rights of the student and family are met.

If students are identified as Unaccompanied Youth, they are enrolled in school and are provided with opportunities to meet the same State academic standards as the State establishes for other children, they are informed of their status as independent students as defined by law, and they are informed they have a right to receive verification of this status from the District liaison.

District Resources: Food Services, Transportation Services, Tutoring, Referral to Community Resources (see Resource list)

Communication with the families of homeless students will be presented in an easy-to-understand format with translation and interpretation services if needed. Outreach opportunities will be provided for the families to be involved in their child's education. Parent Information Bulletins and Brochures are available in the counselors' offices.

General Strategies for School Personnel

- Have contact information for the local homeless liaison on hand and contact him or her to learn about LEA procedures and policies regarding homeless students.

  District Homeless Liaison:
  Kye Payne
  (918)445-6030
  kye.payne@berryhillschools.org

- When you identify a student who is or may possibly be experiencing homelessness, contact the local liaison or site point of contact right away to ensure that the student is linked to all needed services.

Site Contacts:

South Elementary
Maresha Walker, Principal (918)445-6041
Jennifer Hassenplug, Counselor (918)445-6008

North Elementary
Courtney Jones, Principal (918)445-6034
Karen Whiteis, Counselor (918)445-6731

Middle School
Doug Price, Principal (918)445-6039
Donna West, Counselor (918)445-6020

High School
Scott Robb, Principal (918)445-6016
Linda Lemmons, Counselor (918)445-6014
Reanna Abarca, Counselor (918)445-6731

- Participate in professional development to increase awareness of the needs of homeless students and provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act to address their needs.
- Become familiar with trauma-informed services, understanding that many homeless children and youth have experienced tremendous loss, stress, and in many cases, domestic violence.
- Be on the lookout for indicators that a child or youth may be experiencing homelessness, such as
    (i) chronic hunger or fatigue;
    (ii) stress and concern about the family or where they will go after school;
    (iii) erratic attendance at school;
    (iv) changes in behavior;
    (v) poor grooming or clothing that draws attention or is worn for several days in a row; or
    (vi) reluctance to part with belongings while at school.
- Discuss a child's or youth's possible homelessness with him or her or with parents or guardians in a discrete, respectful way, avoiding using the word "homeless." More acceptable terms may include "living in a temporary situation" or "not having a stable place to live."
- Do not disclose information about a student's living situation to anyone other than the local liaison and to other school administrators and school staff only as needed.
- Ensure that the child or youth feels welcome in the school and classroom and has genuine connections to caring adults.

Strategies for Teachers

- Look for indicators that a student may be experiencing homelessness, and make a referral to the site contact and local homeless liaison.
- Make the classroom a welcoming place for homeless students.
- Assure the student that you care.
- Connect a newly enrolled student with other students, such as a lunch buddy.
- Inform the student of extracurricular activities that may be of interest, and arrange participation.
- Do not hold homeless students accountable for situations over which they have no control, such as not having a place to do homework or not being able to pay fines.
- Do not disclose the student's living situation.
- Encourage the student, and hold him or her to high expectations.
- Discuss with the homeless student what his or her school challenges are and connect the student with services or make appropriate accommodations.

- Adjust assignments so students not living in permanent settings can complete them. (A student living in a hotel room or who has limited supplies may not be able to carry out science activities or bring in newspaper articles or information from the Internet.)
- Provide a time and place before, during, or after school for a student to complete assignments.
- Arrange tutoring, supplemental instruction, or counseling expeditiously because many homeless students will be in your school for only a short period of time.
- Assist other students in understanding family homelessness and treating their peers with kindness and respect.
- Look for any signs that other students are teasing or bullying a student who may be experiencing homelessness, and intervene or report the student to the principal.
- Assess students frequently so that you can determine progress even if the student is in your class for only a short time.
- Communicate with a student's parents or guardians about their concerns or ways to help their child or youth be more successful in school.
- Contact the parent or guardian if the student is absent or exhibits concerning behaviors.
- Personal contact (in person or by phone) is often more effective than sending a letter or email.
- Do not take away students' possessions; homeless students may need the security of having their belongings nearby.
- Before you receive a new student:
    (i) Prepare a list of your class rules and routines, and post the class schedule.
    (ii) Prepare a new student folder with information for parents and guardians.
    (iii) Maintain a supply of materials for students.
    (iv) Prepare a "get-to-know-you" activity when a new student arrives.

RESOURCES

- NCHE "Classrooms with Revolving Doors: Recommended Practices for Elementary Teachers of At-Risk and Highly Mobile Students" http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/eff_teach_elem.pdf • NCHE "Classrooms with Revolving Doors: Recommended Practices for Middle Level and High School Teachers of At-Risk and Highly Mobile Students" http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/eff_teach_mh.pdf • NCHE Students on the Move: Reaching and Teaching Highly Mobile Children and Youth http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/st_move.php
- NCHE Training Resources (Webinars and Self-Paced Trainings) http://center.serve.org/nche/web/online_tr.php
- Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/essa.php
- https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/homelessed/pubdocs/school-staff-resource.pdf

EMERGENCY NUMBERS/ HOTLINES:

- **Tulsa County Sheriff**: Non-Emergency Number 918-596-5601
- **Adolescent Crisis Line** (Operated by Youth Services of Tulsa): (918) 582-0061 24 hrs/7 days
- **Teenline Reach-Out**: (800) 522-8336 or Text 839863 24 hrs/7 days
- **National Suicide Hotline**: (800) 784-2433 24 hrs/7 days
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**: (800) 273-8255 24 hrs/7 days
- **Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS)**: (918) 585-3143 24 hrs/7 days
- **COPES** : (918) -744-4800
- **Tulsa Helpline** : (918)-836-HELP Cell phone - 211
- **Poison Control Center**: 1-800-222-1222

OUTPATIENT SERVICES:

- **Mental Health Association** - (918) 585-1213
- **Family & Children's Services** - (918) 712-4301
- **Youth Services of Tulsa** - (918) 582-0061
- **Associated Centers for Therapy (ACT)** - (918) 295-8226
- **CREOKS Behavioral Health** - (918) 382-7300
- **Palmer Drug Abuse Program** - (918) 832-7763
- **Counseling and Recovery Services** - (918) 492-2554
- **Laureate** - (918) 481-4000
- **Centers for Therapeutic Interventions** - (918) 384-0002
- **Positive Behavioral Strategies** - (918) 585-9888
- **Tulsa Family Development Center** - 918-743-3224

INPATIENT TREATMENT FACILITIES:

CALM Center - Tulsa, OK - 24/7 assessment and admission for children ages 14-17 in crisis. Up to 7 days of in-treatment care. All levels of care are available. Services include acute or residential overflow, step-down, crisis intervention, drug and alcohol detox, and aftercare referrals. Call (918) 492-CALM any time of day or night.

- **Hillcrest Behavioral Health** - (918) 579-SAFE
- **Parkside** - (918) 582-2131
- **Family & Children's Services** - (918) 744-4800
- **Laureate Psychiatric Hospital -** (918) 481-4000

OUTSIDE COUNSELING

- **Family and Children's Services**
  Central Office
  650 S. Peoria
  Tulsa
  587-9471
  Fee: Sliding scale based on income and family size

- **Youth Services of Tulsa**
  311 S. Madison Ave.
  Tulsa
  582-0061
  Fee: Based on the family's ability to pay

- **CREOKS Health Services**
  4103 S Yale Ave., Suite B
  Tulsa, OK 74135
  918-636-4405

YOUTH/EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- **Youth Services of Tulsa -** (918) 582-0061
- **Day Center for Homeless -** (918) 583-5558
- **Day Spring Villa -** (918) 245-4075
- **Tulsa County Emergency Shelter -** (918) 596-5591

FOOD BANK/GROCERY GIVEAWAYS

- **Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma -** (918) 585-2800
- **Loaves and Fishes -** (918) 234-8577
- **Guts Distribution Center** (918) 622-3927
- **Carbondale Assembly of God** (918) 446-0795

PARENTING CLASSES

- **Family and Children's Services -** (918) 587-9471
- **Youth Services of Tulsa -** (918) 582-0061

MEDICAL SERVICES

- **Tulsa County Health Department -** (918) 582-9355
- **Indian Healthcare Resource Center -** (918) 5881900

GROUP HOMES

- **Baptist Children's Home -** 918-272-2233
  Owasso/OKC - Ages 5-18
- **Cookson Hills -** 918-597-2192
  Kansas - Ages 5-18
- **Oaks Indian Mission** - 918-868-2196
  Oaks - Ages 3-18
- **Murrow Children's Indian Home -** (918)-682-2586
  Muskogee - Ages 6-18

DAYCARE SERVICES

- **After School Care**
  By 5L Services
  Location: New Home Church
  Phone:918-747-9069
  Email: 5lafterschoolcare@gmail.com

- **STEM Afterschool Camp**
  Location: Chandler Park
  Phone: 918-591-6053

- **G3 afterschool Childcare**
  Location: Berryhill Baptist Church
  Phone: 918-445-0923
  email: bbcoksecretary@gmail.com

TUTORING REFERENCES

- **Huntington Learning Center -** (918) 252-1200
- **Kumon Math and Reading Center -** (918) 523-6284
- **Oxford Learning Center -** (918) 250-5500
- **Sylvan Learning Center -** (918) 250-7323
- **Northeastern State University -** (918) 449-6000

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- **IStation**
- **Study Island**
- **Starfall**
- **Coolmath.com/games**
- **Disney.com**
- **Funbrain.com**
- **Learningplant.com**
- **Mathgoodies.com**
- **Multiplication.com**
- **Nickjr.com**
- **Pbskids.org**
- **Playkidsgames.com**
- **Primarygames.com**
- **Spellingcity.com**

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