



Community Academy of Philadelphia, CS
First Charter School in Philadelphia

Book: Board Document Policy
Section: 200 Pupils
Title: McKinney Vento Policy
Code: 206
Status: Board of Trustees Approved
Adopted: September 1, 2015
Reviewed and Approved: January 22, 2024

Purpose

The McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act guarantees a free and appropriate public education for all children and youth experiencing homelessness. [B.E.C. 42 U.S.C. 11431](#) outlines procedures for deciding school placement, enrolling students, and determining responsibility. Federal and state laws make our responsibility clear. With the huge number of children experiencing homelessness currently attending Philadelphia public schools, we must provide proper educational support and services.

Definitions

“Homeless” is defined as “anyone lacking a fixed, adequate, regular nighttime residence.”

Delegation of Responsibility

Every school district must have a homeless liaison who is in charge of ensuring students who are experiencing homelessness can enroll and succeed in school. This person, identified by each Local Education Agency, supports and helps students in homeless situations.

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 outlines specific responsibilities of this individual. The homeless liaison must:

- Make sure students enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have the papers they would normally need for enrollment.
- Help families and youth get immunizations. immunization records or other medical records, if a student needs them.
- Tell parents and youth about all transportation services and help set up transportation.
- Make sure students get all the school services they need.

- Tell parents and guardians about all the programs and services the school has available for their children.
-

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act guarantees a free and appropriate public education for all children and youth experiencing homelessness. B.E.C. 42 U.S.C. 77437 outlines procedures for deciding school placement, enrolling students, and determining responsibility. Federal and state laws make our responsibility clear. In compliance with this law, Community Academy of Philadelphia, CS (CAP) will provide proper educational support and services to any children experiencing homelessness currently attending our school.

In summary, the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and (educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

The McKinney Vento Act defines the term 'homeless children and youths' as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence". Under the Pennsylvania Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Plan, homeless children are defined as:

Children living with a parent in a domestic violence shelter; runaway children and children, and youth who have been abandoned or forced out of their home by parents or other caretakers; and school-aged parents living in houses for school-aged parents if they have no other available living accommodations.

The McKinney-Vento Act states that it is the policy of Congress that state educational agencies shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths 42 U.S.C.A. § 11431. Specifically, 42 U.S.C.A. § 71432(9) (3) (A) indicates that the local educational agency (LEA) shall, according to the child's best interest:

- (I) continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or
- (II) for the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or

(III) enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

According to the McKinney-Vento Act the term "school of origin" means the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. 42 U.S.C.A. § 11432(9) (3) (G).

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative

- adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters.
 - Abandoned in hospitals.
 - Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
 - Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations, or similar settings. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
 - Living as run-away children.
 - Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents or caretakers.
 - Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations.

Migratory Children

The term "migratory children" means children who are, or whose parent or spouse are, migratory agricultural workers, including migratory dairy workers, or migratory fishermen, and who have moved from one school district to another in the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain or accompany such parent or spouse, in order to obtain, temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work.

Unspent Funds

Any funds earmarked for McKinney Vento that are not used by the June 30 will be reallocated into the Title I budget.

Legal References

[B.E.C. 42 U.S.C. 11431 Education for Homeless Youth](#)

42 U.S.C.A. § 11431

42 U.S.C.A. § 71432(9) (3) (A)

42 U.S.C.A. § 11432(9) (3) (G)