

Wayne County School District



McKinney Vento

Homeless Plan

2020-2021

Approved:

Tommy Branch
Superintendent of Education

Date

Amy Brown
School Board President

Date

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Federal Programs Director

Date

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District Vision

To provide a safe environment where we educate students in preparation for success in life and the workforce.

District Mission

To provide all students with the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for success in college, the workforce, and to be responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

District Goals

1. Every school will have effective teachers and leaders.
2. Every child will have access to a high-quality, early childhood program.
3. Our district will effectively use data to improve student outcomes.
4. All students become proficient and show growth in all assessed areas.
5. Every student will graduate high school and be college and career ready.
6. Every school will be rated a “C” or higher.

Section: J Students

Policy Code: JQN Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Policy:

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Homeless students in the district will have access to the education and other services needed to ensure that an opportunity is available to meet the same academic achievement standards to which all students are held. A liaison for students in homeless situations will be designated by the district to carry out duties as required by law.

The district will ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized nor segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. A homeless student will be admitted to the district school in the attendance area in which the student is actually living or to the student's school of origin as requested by the parent and in accordance with the student's best interest. Transportation will be provided to and from the student's school of origin at the request of the parent, or in the case of an unaccompanied student, the district's liaison for homeless students.

The superintendent or designee will produce written guidelines for distribution to each school that explains the rights of homeless students and the responsibilities of the schools to meet their needs and eliminate barriers to school attendance. This information shall also be disseminated in writing and by other means designed to raise awareness of these rights and responsibilities to staff, homeless families and students, the public, and homeless service providers.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, children are deemed to be homeless under the following conditions:

1. A child who is lacking a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence and who has a primary nighttime residence that is a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, a temporary residence prior to being placed in an institution, or a place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
2. A child who is living in a transitional or emergency shelter.
3. A child who is temporarily living in a trailer park or camping area due to lack of adequate living accommodations.
4. A child who is living in doubled-up accommodations due to loss of housing or other similar situation.
5. A migratory child who is staying in accommodations not fit for human habitation.

6. A child who has run away from home and lives in a runaway shelter, abandoned building, the street, or other inadequate accommodations.
7. A child who is placed in a state institution because s/he has no other place to live.
8. A child who has been abandoned by his/her family and is staying in a hospital.
9. A child whose parents or guardian will not permit him/her to live at home and who lives on the street, or other inadequate accommodations.
10. School-age unwed mothers or expectant mothers who are living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other available living accommodations.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

1. Pursuant to and in compliance with the requirements of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990, 42USC11431, it shall be the policy of this school district, to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by state law, that each eligible child of a homeless individual and each eligible homeless youth will have access to a free appropriate education comparable to the education provided the children of district residents who are non-homeless, without isolation or stigma.
2. The placement of an eligible homeless child or youth will be made according to Policy JBCCA Assignment of Pupils, and will take into consideration the best interests of the homeless child or youth and placement requests made by a parent.
3. The choice of placement in either the "school of origin" or the school serving the "place of abode" will take place regardless of whether the child or youth is living with the homeless parent(s) or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parent(s).
4. Provided the homeless child or youth meets eligibility criteria, he/she will be provided transportation services; compensatory education programs for the disadvantaged; educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency; programs in vocational education; programs for the gifted and talented; and school meals programs.
5. Any and all records ordinarily kept by this school district, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, evaluations for special services and programs shall be kept on homeless children and youth and shall be forwarded in a timely fashion should a child or youth enter a new school or school district; and in a manner consistent with S1232g of Title 20.
6. Should this school district receive assistance un S11432 of the Act, it shall coordinate with local social service agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to such children or youth and their families.
7. Should this school district receive assistance under S11432 of the Act, it shall designate a homelessness liaison to insure that homeless children and youth enroll in and succeed in the schools of their district; and, homeless families, children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services.

8. The homelessness liaison shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the liaison.
9. This school district has and will continue to review and revise, to the extent practicable under the requirements relating to education established by state law, any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth in schools selected in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above.
10. In reviewing and revising such policies, to the extent practicable under the requirements relating to education established by state law, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, requirements of immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation and guardianship.
11. Disputes which may arise regarding the assignment of a homeless child or youth will be promptly resolved according to the provisions of Policy JBCCA Assignment of Pupils. Other issues or disputes will be directed to the attention of the school official responsible for that particular matter for prompt resolution. If this dispute cannot be resolved locally, any aggrieved party may make written request for a review of the matter to:
 - Coordinator of the Homeless Program
 - Mississippi Department of Education
 - P. O. Box 771
 - Jackson, MS 39205

LEGAL REF.: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001

CROSS REF.: Policies JAA Equal Educational Opportunities
 JBCCA Assignment of Pupils
 IB Instructional Goals

Exhibits:

Regulations:

References:

- 37-15-1 - Maintenance of permanent records and cumulative folders for pupils; requirement of certified birth certificate or other evidence of age.
- 37-7-301 - General powers and duties.
- 41-23-37 - Immunization practices for control of vaccine preventable diseases; attendance by unvaccinated children.

Original Adopted Date: 11/7/2016	Status: Adopted
Approved/Revised Date: 11/7/2016	Record Id: 204680

HOMELESS EDUCATION PLAN

Title IA (Section 111(a)(1)) requires that a district (including independent charter schools) receiving Title IA funds include in its district plan a plan to provide services to homeless students to ensure compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in December 2001, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

DEFINITIONS

Homeless children and youth means children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- Living in a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, such as cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings or substandard housing (*for example, condemned buildings or garages*), bus or train stations, or other similar settings
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (*does not include trailers or mobile homes in a mobile home park*), or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care placement
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above

Unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. A child or unaccompanied youth shall be considered homeless for as long as he/she is in a living situation described above.

HOMELESS LIAISON

The Wayne County School District (WCSD) Homeless Liaison serves students at the district level. MSIS Secretaries at Beat Four School, Buckatunna Elementary School, Clara Elementary School, Waynesboro Elementary School, Waynesboro Middle School, and Wayne County High School serve as the Homeless Liaisons for the respective school.

Current Liaison:

Sandy Graham
 Federal Programs Director
 601-735-3811
 grahams@wcsdms.com
 1513 Sullivan Drive
 Waynesboro, MS 39367

The Homeless Liaison is required to:

- Ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination with other entities and agencies.
- Ensure that homeless students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the Local Education Agency (LEA).
- Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and pre-school programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.
- Ensure that parents and guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the Act (such as school, family shelters, and soup kitchens).
- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions.
- Ensure that the parent/guardian of a homeless child or youth, or any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services and is assisted in accessing transportation services, if available and feasible.
- Assist unaccompanied youth in placement/enrollment decisions.
- Ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.
- Assist homeless children and youth who do not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, to obtain necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.
- Collaborate and coordinate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.

GENERAL ASSURANCES

Wayne County School District provides the following general assurances:

- Homeless children and youth shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way.
- Homeless children and youth shall be provided services comparable to those received by other students in the school, including transportation services, and education programs for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title 1 or similar state and local programs; programs for students with disabilities; programs for students with limited English proficiency; vocational or technical programs; gifted and talented programs; and school nutrition programs.
- Homeless children and youth will have access to district administrative level reservation of funds (set-asides) for serving homeless students.
- WCSD shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.
- WCSD shall provide and post notices of the educational rights of homeless children and youth.

IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING

Homeless children and youth will be identified through:

1. The application process for enrollment (self-identification)
2. School personnel recommendations
3. Coordinated activities with other entities and agencies

WCSD will comply with all federal, state, county (Wayne County), and other data collections and reporting requirements regarding homeless children and youth.

SCHOOL SELECTION

Homeless students have a right to select from the following schools:

- The school he/she attended when permanently housed (School of Origin)
- The school in which he/she was last enrolled (School of Origin)
- The school in the attendance area in which the student currently resides (School of Residency)

A homeless child or youth's right to attend their school of origin extends for the duration of homelessness. If a child or youth becomes permanently housed during the academic year, he or she is entitled to stay in the school of origin for the remainder of the academic year.

ENROLLMENT AND RECORDS

Homeless students may be identified at the time of enrollment (through self-reports). Homeless youth will not be discriminated against in the registration process. Homeless children and youth will be allowed to apply for enrollment in accordance with current WCSD enrollment policies even if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment such as previous academic records, birth certificate, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. The WCSD designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunization or other medical records, the designee shall refer the parent/guardian to the homeless liaison. The liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student.

In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall assist in the enrollment process. Unaccompanied youth shall be immediately enrolled despite lack of parent or legal guardian's supervision or permissions, or "power of attorney" by supervising adult.

Any confidential record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, of each homeless child or youth will be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Homeless students automatically qualify for free breakfast and lunch at WCSD schools. Families do not have to fill out an application or provide proof of income. Homeless students will be added to the free meals program as soon as they have been identified.

TRANSPORTATION

Per the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs must provide services to homeless children/youth that are comparable to those received by other students in the school selected, including transportation. In addition, schools must provide transportation for homeless students to and from their school of origin, if feasible.

WCSD, where feasible, applicable, at the request of the parent/guardian and/or in the best interest of the homeless children and youth, shall provide transportation to students experiencing homelessness to ensure the students are able to stay at the WCSD school of their choice for the duration of their homelessness.

WCSD may work with the youth's district of residence or other agencies to provide transportation services.

ENROLLMENT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

If a disagreement arises over school selection or enrollment, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school in which he/she is requesting enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute. Enrollment is defined as "attending classes and participating fully in school activities."

The school must refer the student, parent, or guardian to the LEA's homeless liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. The homeless liaison must ensure the dispute resolution process is also followed for unaccompanied youth.

A written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment must be provided if a parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth disputes such a school selection or enrollment decision, including the right to appeal. The written explanation shall be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated, and provided in a language that the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth can understand.

If the dispute remains unresolved at the district level or is appealed, then the district homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the homeless liaison at the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). The MDE's homeless liaison will review these materials and determine the school selection or enrollment decision within five (5) working days of receipt of the materials. The MDE homeless liaison will notify the LEA and parent of the decision.

If the dispute remains unresolved or is appealed, the MDE homeless liaison shall forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the State Homeless Coordinator. Upon the review of the LEA, MDE, and parent information, the MDE will notify the parent of the final school selection or enrollment decision within ten (10) working days of receipt of materials.

Wayne County School District Caregiver Authorization for Homeless Student

This form is intended to address the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 107-110) requirement that homeless children have access to education and other services for which they are eligible. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states specifically that barriers to enrollment must be removed. In some cases, a child or youth who is homeless may not be able to reside with his/her parent or guardian; however, this fact does not nullify the child's/youth's right to receive a free, appropriate education. This form is to be used for school purposes only.

Instructions: Complete this form for a) a child/youth presenting himself/herself for enrollment while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, or b) when a person agrees to fulfill the role of a caregiver for the minor.

- To authorize the enrollment in school of a minor, complete items 1 through 6 and sign the form.
- To authorize the enrollment and school-related medical care of a minor, complete all items and sign the form.

1. Name of Minor: _____

2. Minor's Birth Date: _____

3. Person Completing Form: _____

4. Home Address of Person Completing Form: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

5. Home Address of Person Completing Form: _____

6. State Driver's License or Identification Card number of Person Completing Form: _____

Check one only:

I am 18 years of age or older and have agreed to fulfill the role of caregiver for the minor named above.

I am an unaccompanied youth and am enrolling myself in this school.

Check one only if you are the Caregiver:

I am unable to contact the parent(s) or legal guardians(s) at this time to notify them of my intended authorization.

I have advised the parents(s) or other person(s) having legal custody of the minor as to my intent to authorize medical care and have received no objection.

I have advised the parents(s) or other person(s) having legal custody of the minor as to my intent to authorize medical care and have received the attached authorization signed and notarized and/or witnessed from the parent(s) of the minor:

I declare under penalties of perjury pursuant to Florida Statutes §92.525 and state that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Eligibility Form

Wayne County School District 7700		School Name:	
Student Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Date of Birth	Grade
Contact Person (Parent, Guardian, Other)	Unaccompanied Youth	Preschool Age (3-5 Child) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Address <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary		Telephone	
Race: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial/Ethnic			

Confidential Information

Complete only if it shows (1) your child's current living situation; or (2) your living situation if you are a youth not living with a parent or guardian.

Check the appropriate box:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> With relatives or others due to lack of housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motel/hotel, camping ground, or other similar situation due to lack of alternative, adequate housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily housed in shelter awaiting DHS foster care placement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Train or bus station, park, or in a car | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned apartment /building | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster victim? Explain: _____ |

Is there a current Order of Protection or No Contact Order which concerns the student? Yes No

Last school attended: _____

Eligible for any educational and school related activities and services?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education (IDEA) | <input type="checkbox"/> English Language Learners (ELL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifted and Talented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool age 3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Possible Barriers to Education

- School Selection Transportation School Records Immunizations or other medical records
 Other: _____

Proposed Services and Activities to be Provided by McKinney-Vento

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring or other instructional support | <input type="checkbox"/> Expedited evaluations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Referrals for medical, dental, & other health services | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff professional development/awareness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with participation in school programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obtaining or transferring records necessary for enrollment | <input type="checkbox"/> Early childhood programs—preschool, Head Start |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination between schools and agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Before/after-school, mentoring, summer programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing to meet a school requirement | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent education related to rights/resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency assistance related to school attendance | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addressing needs related to domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> School supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Referral to other programs and services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Comments: _____

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this document is accurate:

Name (Print)/Relationship

Title 1 Director Name (Print)

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____