

McKinney-Vento Act

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act-

Statement of Policy Title VII- B; Education for

Homeless Children & Youth Program **Definition:**

The Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan defines any homeless children and youth according to the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Definition, as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

The term includes-

- Children and youth who are:
- Sharing 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;
- Children and youth who have a primary residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public space, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Responsibilities of Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan:

With regard to Homeless children and youth designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) in the Federal

McKinney-Vento Act, HVAM shall ensure that-

- homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- appoint a homeless student district liaison responsible for the coordination of services for such children;
- homeless students enrolled in HVAM will have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in curriculum;
- homeless children and youth and their families will receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, Special Education and related services, and referrals to health care, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services;
- parents or guardians of homeless children and youth 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;
- parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services;

- enrollment disputes will be mediated in accordance with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act;
- public notice of educational rights of homeless students will be disseminated appropriately at the HVAM enrollment office and provided to parents upon enrollment
- In meeting these responsibilities, HVAM will coordinate with homeless families in the following activities:
 - the immediate enrollment in school and accessing school services;
 - services for assistance in obtaining immunizations, medical records, residency, guardianship, and other documents if needed;
 - providing special attention to the ensuring of enrollment and attendance of special programs of homeless students and unaccompanied youth not currently attending school;
 - informing parents, school personnel, and others regarding the rights of homeless children and youth through staff and parent development and by the dissemination of materials;
 - working with school personnel to ensure that homeless children and youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement;
 - provide homeless children and youth with access to technology and proper materials to be successful in the adapted K¹² curriculum;
 - helping to coordinate access to academic services for homeless children and youth;
 - collaborating with State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
 - implementing educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, or similar State or local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
 - determine the best interest of the child or youth by assisting in the enrollment or placement of their school of origin, by considering the views of such unaccompanied youth and providing them with notice on the right to appeal;
 - provide professional development and awareness to HVAM personnel and service providers on the effects of short-term stays in shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness;

Resources:

McKinney Vento Resources:

- Brochure for posting: “A Parent’s Guide to the Rights of Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness”
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C.S 11432(g)(3)(E) U.S. Department of Education McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Non-regulatory Guidance (July 2004)(pages 17-18)