



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Homeless Education Program
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McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act

Purpose:

To facilitate immediate enrollment of homeless students.

Definition of Homeless (McKinney-Vento Homeless Act 42 U.S.D. 11435):

The term "homeless children and youth" is defined as *individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence*. This includes:

- Sharing of housing (for economic reason vs. choice)
- Motel, hotels
- Public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Trailer park
- Cars, parks, abandoned buildings
- Substandard housing (such as lacking basic electricity, or water)
- Shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Campgrounds

And includes the following categories of children

- Unaccompanied youths, Children awaiting foster care placement, Migratory children

Procedure:

Families and youth, who self-identify as homeless, should immediately be provided a McKinney Vento form. The Form is returned completed to the Office of Student and Community Services by the school office staff. The McKinney Vento Coordinator will contact parent(s) to discuss eligibility for supports such as nutrition, transportation, and tutoring.

The law mandates:

1. Immediate enrollment of eligible students (McKinney Vento):

The following must be waived in the registration process:

- proof of residency
- school records
- immunization record/school physical
- legal guardianship requirements
- birth certificate/social security numbers

Records are not necessary for enrollment but should be obtained as soon as (and if) possible.

Unaccompanied youth, adolescents who present without a parent/guardian, must also be immediately enrolled. If applicable, complete the Caregiver Affidavit with Student Community Services.

2. Provision of Appropriate Services:

All homeless students qualify for Title 1 Services including:

- **Free and Reduced Meals:** Have parent fill out form while in office and fax immediately to Nutrition Services (Note: Homeless Student). The hard (paper) copy of the form should then be sent via interdistrict mail.
- **Tutoring or Education Services:** Can be provided to all homeless students at the school or parent's request through existing before/after school programs or, through an arranged tutor. Assistance may be available for extra-curricular activities integral to the core educational program (contact Homeless Liaison).

Homeless students are eligible for the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide homeless students with access to the same educational services available to other students such as:

- **Special Education Services-A child with an IEP** (Individualized Education Plan) needs to be enrolled immediately in like special educational services.
- **GATE services-** children who have been enrolled in a **GATE** program must be immediately enrolled in this program – contact GATE Coordinator with the student contact information.
- **Migrant Education:** Liaison to connect with Migrant Education coordinator for county.
- **English Language Learners (ELL) Program:** Eligibility to be determined by Language Assessment center.

Transportation:

Homeless students may be eligible to receive transportation services. Once the McKinney Vento questionnaire is submitted and approved, **the transportation department will contact the parent, guardian, or youth as soon as possible to arrange transportation.** In some instances, students may qualify for transportation from locations outside of school boundaries in order to maintain attendance at the school of origin.

Clothing/uniforms and school supplies: Backpacks and school supplies may be available through the homeless liaison. The school should work with their onsite resources and *Operation School Bell* to provide school uniforms.

Immunizations or Medical Insurance assistance: Homeless Coordinator or School Nurse will assist family with enrolling in health insurance program/accessing services.

4. School Selection: The law states that students have the right to stay in the school of origin (the school that the child was last attended when permanently housed)

<http://www.orangeusd.org/scs/McKinneyVento/index.asp>

- For the duration of homelessness (and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing) 722(g)(3)(A)(i;ii)
- If in the best interest of the student
- By parent request

Parents and unaccompanied youth may alternatively choose to enroll at a school that serves the area in which they currently reside.

5. Enrollment Disputes: If enrollment is denied at a school in which the parent is attempting to enroll the child, a written notification of the enrollment decision must be provided. The parent has the right to dispute the enrollment decision, using the district dispute resolution form. The student must be immediately enrolled in this school while the dispute is investigated by the homeless liaison. School and parent dispute forms are available on the OUSD website at

<http://www.orangeusd.org/scs/McKinneyVento/index.asp>

6. Emergency Contact Information:

Parent/Guardian(s) are to fill out Emergency Card and instructed to contact school with updated information as needed.

- A Business Card or paper with current contact information can be attached to ER Card (rather than refilling out card with each move).

7. Confidentiality

A student's status as a homeless student is strictly confidential. Additionally, no directory information regarding homeless student (name, telephone, address, email, photograph, and student statistics) may be released without the written consent of the parent guardian, or youth accorded parental rights.

Email to:

Homeless Liaison: Kristine Nelson, M.A. knelson@orangeusd.org

And

Mary King, District Registrar, maryk@orangeusd.org