Sequim School District No. 323
Engage Empower Thrive
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MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT, SUBTITLE VII-B

Reauthorized December 10, 2015, by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (effective October 1, 2016)

Policy Statement

Section 721(l)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act reads:

The following is the policy of the Congress:

1) Each State educational agency 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.

2) In any State that has a compulsory residency requirement as a component of the State's compulsory school attendance laws or other laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths.

3) Homelessness alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.

4) Homeless children and youths should have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

Definitions

Homeless Children and Youths
According to Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, the term 'homeless children and youths':

A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)) ['one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.']; and

Sequim School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator: Victoria Balint, vbalint@sequimschools.org 503 N Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3260, and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Rachel Summers, 503 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3407, rsummers@sequimschools.org.

B. includes:
   i. children and youths 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 youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
   iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
   iv. migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii)."

Section 103(c) of the Act specifically excludes from the definition of homeless individuals any person who is imprisoned or otherwise detained by Act of Congress or State law.

Unaccompanied Youth
Section 725(6) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act indicates that the term "unaccompanied youth" includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Youth living on their own in any of the homeless situations described in the law are covered by the law.

Fixed Residence
A residence that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.

Regular Residence
A residence which is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis.

Adequate Residence
A residence which is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

Parent
For the purpose of this policy, a parent means a parent, legal guardian, or person having legal custody of a child.

School of Origin
The school of origin, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Section 722 (g)(3)(G), is 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.

Enrollment
The terms "enroll", and "enrollment" include attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

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