

Bartlett City Board of Education		6044
Descriptor Term: HOMELESS STUDENTS	Descriptor Code: Student Services	Issue Date: 02/27/2014
	Rescinds:	Revised: 06/15/2023

1 Homeless students shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public
2 education as provided to other students. The District shall establish safeguards that
3 protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness. The
4 McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals
5 who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth
6 who are:

- 7 1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic
8 hardship, or a similar reason; or
- 9 2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, cars, public spaces,
10 abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar
11 settings due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or
- 12 3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
- 13 4. Abandoned in hospitals; or
- 14 5. Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private
15 place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping
16 accommodation for human beings (cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned
17 buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings); or
- 18 6. Awaiting foster care placement;
- 19 7. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in
20 circumstances described above; or
- 21 8. Unaccompanied youth, including youth not in the physical custody of a parent
22 or guardian, such as runaways and youth denied housing by their families.

23 Homeless students have the following rights:

- 24 1. The right to immediate enrollment in school, even if lacking paperwork normally
25 required for enrollment (such as previous academic records, immunization
26 records, proof of residency, or other documentation); and
- 27 2. The right to attend school in (1) his/her school of origin, (2) last school attended,
28 or (3) the school in the attendance area where the family or youth is currently
29 residing, based on the parent’s request or views of an unaccompanied homeless
30 student and where feasible considering the best interests of the child; and

- 1 3. The right to receive transportation to his/her school of origin, if this is requested by
2 the parent or BCS staff charged with assisting homeless students; and
- 3 4. The right to services comparable to those received by housed schoolmates,
4 including but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which
5 the student meets eligibility criteria such as educational programs for
6 disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented
7 students; vocational programs and technical education; school meal programs;
8 preschool programs; before-and-after-school care programs; and programs for
9 students with limited English proficiency;
- 10 5. The right to attend school along with children not experiencing homelessness.
11 Segregation based on a student's status as homeless is strictly prohibited; and
- 12 6. The right to appeal any decision related to eligibility, enrollment, or school
13 selection.

14 The rights of homeless students as defined above shall be posted in all schools and other
15 places around the community.

16 The Title I N&D Supervisor shall serve as the BCS Liaison for Homeless Children. The
17 Liaison will collaborate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children
18 and Youth and with community and school personnel responsible for the provision of
19 education and related services to homeless children and youth. If a dispute arises over
20 the eligibility, school selection, or school enrollment of a homeless student under this
21 Policy, the District shall ensure the following:

- 22 1. The student is immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought,
23 pending final resolution of the dispute;
- 24 2. The parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth is provided with a written
25 explanation of dispute-related decisions made by the school or District, including
26 the right to appeal any such decisions. In the case of unaccompanied youth, the
27 BCS Liaison shall ensure the written notice is provided directly to the youth ; and
- 28 3. The BCS Liaison will carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as
29 possible after receiving notice of the dispute.

30 Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that information
31 regarding the rights existing under federal law for homeless children, youth, and their
32 families are provided to students and parents/guardians.

33 42 USC §§ 11431 to 11434; McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, Part C, §721
34 McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by ESSA (Pub. L. 114-95), §§ 721-725
35 T.C.A. §49-50-1701 *et seq.*