The McKinney-Vento Program

To expedite the school registration process to ensure continuity of the education for homeless children and homeless youth, P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School will follow the mandates of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42U.S.C.11431 et seq.)(McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently re-authorized in December 2015 by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); and F.S. 1003.21(2) (f), Homeless Children and Youth; and F.S. 1003.22(1); Temporary Exemption for Birth Certificates.

P.K. Yonge has designated a liaison for homeless children and youth to oversee P.K. Yonge programs. This liaison is called the Students in Transition Liaison is responsible for coordination of services to include: Exceptional Student Education (ESE); collaboration with other school districts regarding homeless student-related transportation, transfer of school records, and other inter-district related activities. The P.K. Yonge Students in Transition Liaison will collaborate with community providers and organizations such as housing authorities, local social service agencies and other community service groups to provide support to homeless students and their families.

Definitions

Homeless students (pre-K through 12th grade) are individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and include the following:

A. children and youth 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.

B. children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

C. children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;

D. . migratory children (as defined by section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, as amended) who meet one (1) of the above described circumstances.

School of Origin: is the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled including preschool.

Eligible School: the school of origin or school for the address where the student is temporarily residing, or another school which students residing in that attendance zone are eligible to attend.

Unaccompanied Youth: a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Enroll and Enrollment: attending classes and fully participating in school activities.

Designated Receiving School: includes the next level school, elementary from prekindergarten, middle from elementary, high from middle, that a homeless child or youth, whose homelessness continues into the next school year, may attend when that next level school is the district designated school for those students in the homeless student's school of origin [s.722(g)(3)(I)(ii)].

Enrollment

P.K. Yonge shall remove any barriers that affect the enrollment, identification and retention of homeless children and youth, including attending classes and full participation in school activities, including before and after school activities. P.K. Yonge shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization or other health records, birth certificates, proof of residency, proof of guardianship, or other required documentation. Students' immediate enrollment and attendance cannot be delayed due to lack of school uniforms or dress code requirements, outstanding fees/fines or absences. All student records (immunization, health records, academic records, guardianship records and evaluation for special services) shall be held confidential, maintained in the students' records, and made available in a timely fashion when a child or youth enters a new school. All students' records shall not be deemed to be directory information as stated under section 444 of the General Education Provision Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)[s.722(g)(3)(G)].

P.K. Yonge shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth even if they missed an application or enrollment deadline during any period of homelessness.

The enrolling school shall immediately contact the last school attended by the student to obtain relevant academic and other records. The child or youth should be provided appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by homeless child or youth while attending a prior school. P.K. Yonge's Students in Transition Liaison will be notified.

A homeless child or youth may continue their education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year. Keeping a child or youth in the school of origin is presumed to be in the child's or youth's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth. When considering placement in a school other than the child's or youth's school of origin, the P.K. Yonge's Students in Transition Liaison will consider student-centered factors to determine a placement that is in the student's best interest.

A homeless student who becomes permanently housed during the academic year, may remain at their school of origin for the remainder of the academic year and continue to receive all McKinney-Vento Act benefits.

The following can be used as admissible evidence for date of birth for homeless children in the school registration process:

A. a duly attested transcript of the child's birth record filed according to law with a public officer charged with the duty of recording births; or

B. a duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent; or

C. an insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two (2) years; or

D. a bona fide contemporary bible record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent; or

E. a passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child; or

F. if none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a public school physician, or if neither of these shall be available in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated by the School Board, which certificate shall state that the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is substantially correct.

Comparable Services

Children and youth experiencing homelessness and who meet the relevant eligibility criteria will have access to all available academic and extracurricular activities. Homeless children and youth shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to non-homeless children and youth, including receiving comparable services such as transportation services; educational services, including special education and related service; programs for English learners; career and technical education programs; gifted programs; school nutrition programs (free meals); Title I Part A programs; and before- and after-school programs; offered to other students in the school.

Homeless children and youth shall have access to the education and other services that such students need to ensure that such students have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Homeless and unaccompanied homeless high school youth will receive counseling to prepare and improve their readiness for postsecondary education or a career.

Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated or isolated on the basis of their status as homeless.

Students considered to be homeless, if expelled, will be permitted to attend an alternative school, unless the student is expelled from all schools.

Homeless preschool-aged children and their families will be provided access to educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the School District.

Transportation

The School District shall ensure transportation will be arranged or provided for a homeless student or unaccompanied youth to and from the school of origin, at the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied student. Students who move out of their attendance zone are eligible to continue enrollment in the school of origin. The Students in Transition Liaison or designee shall ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school of origin. The school will request transportation. The Students in Transition Liaison will work with the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and the transportation department to determine if transportation to the school of origin is in "the best interest" of the child or youth, given the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety on such students.

When the child or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the local education agency of origin terminate and the child or youth though continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency of origin and the local educational agency in which the child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and cost for providing the child or youth with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method the responsibility and cost shall be shared equally.

Dispute Resolution

P.K. Yonge shall ensure that homeless students and their families are aware of the student's right to remain in the school of origin and their right to dispute.
The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the district's designated Students in Transition Liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible. When considering placement other than the child's or youth's school of origin, P.K. Yonge will consider student-centered factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless students, to determine a placement that is in the student's best interest and will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation on their right to appeal the placement determination in a manner and form understandable to the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth.

During a school selection dispute, the child or youth will either remain enrolled in the student's school of origin or shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, either the school zoned for the address where the student is

residing or another school which students residing in that attendance zone for the address are eligible to attend pending final resolution of the dispute including all available appeals.

The parent or guardian of the child or youth or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth shall be provided with a written explanation, in a manner understandable to the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth of any decision related to school selection or enrollment made by the school or the school district, including the rights of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth to appeal the decision.

Age Limit for Student Entry

A student desiring to enroll is not eligible to register in a regular high school program unless the student can graduate by completing a normal course load prior to the student's 20th birthday. A principal may grant an extension of this time if circumstances warrant such a decision.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1003.21, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: 382.002, 743.015, 743.067, 1000.21, 1001.43, 57.081, 1003.01-2, 1003.21, 1003.22, 1009.25, F.S.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT, P.L.100-77
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001, P.L. 107-110

HISTORY: ADOPTED: _____

REVISION DATE(S): _____

FORMERLY: NEW