

# OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

## HOMELESS STUDENTS, FOSTER CHILDREN and FOREIGN STUDENTS

9006

*Relates to: 9006F, 2035AR Foreign Exchange; McKinney Vento Act*

The District is committed to ensuring that all homeless students have equal access to the same free public education that other students have. This policy explains the District's responsibilities under the federal McKinney Vento Act for identifying and serving homeless students.

### A. HOMELESS STUDENT SERVICES

#### 1. Definition of Homeless Students

Homeless students are children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes those who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds because of the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
- Living in a migratory situation that qualifies as homeless because a child lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

#### 2. District Liaison for Homeless Students

The District has appointed the Director of Pupil Personnel, 502.241.3500, as the Liaison for homeless students. The Liaison for homeless students will provide enrollment support and coordinate services within the school district and through community agencies in order to ensure that each homeless child or agencies in order to ensure that each homeless child or youth has equal access to an education in the District. Specifically, the Liaison has the following responsibilities:

- Making sure that homeless children enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in district schools;
- Making sure that homeless families and children receive educational services they're entitled to, such as preschool care, and referrals to services, such as health care;
- Making sure that the parents and guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational opportunities available to their children and are given opportunities to participate;
- Distributing a public notice of the educational rights of homeless children where such children receive services, such as schools, family shelters and soup kitchens; and
- Making sure that enrollment disputes are mediated appropriately. If a dispute arises between the District and parents about school selection or enrollment, the district must immediately enroll the student in the requested school, pending resolution of the dispute. Disputes over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment are to be appealed to the Kentucky Department of Education using the Dispute Resolution for Homeless form located at:  
<https://education.ky.gov/federal/progs/txc/Documents/Homeless%20Dispute%20Resolution%20Form.pdf>
- The liaison shall provide a copy of the referenced form to the complainant.

#### 3. Enrollment Records

Homeless students will enroll, attend classes and participate fully in school activities. If critical enrollment records, including immunization and medical records, are not immediately available for homeless children, the Liaison and school staff will work with these children and other agencies to obtain them in a timely manner.

#### 4. Placement

The Liaison for homeless students, with help from other school staff, will decide on homeless students' placement in school based on the District assessment plan and the students' "Best interests." In making this determination, the District must, to the extent feasible, continue the student's

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education in his or her “school of origin”—that is, the district school the student had been attending prior to becoming homeless—unless the student’s parents or guardians want him placed in another school.

5. Transportation

The District will provide homeless students in the district with transportation services comparable to those of other students. The school principal, the Liaison and the transportation manager will coordinate homeless students’ transportation needs.

#### **B. CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

Students in foster care shall have equal access to all educational programs and services, including transportation, which all other students enjoy.

1. School Enrollment

Foster children are to be immediately enrolled in a new school. The District shall collaborate with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to ensure immediate and appropriate enrollment of the child and immediately contact the student’s previous school for relevant records. The previous school shall provide the new school records maintained within the student information system by the Kentucky Department of Education within three (3) working days of receipt of a request. Remaining records shall be provided within ten (10) working days of the request.

2. District Liaison for Foster Children

The Director of Student Services is the Foster Care Liaison appointed to coordinate activities relating to the District’s provision of services to children placed in foster care, including transportation services.

3. Attendance at School of Origin

Children in foster care, including preschool aged children if the District offers a preschool program, shall be eligible to attend their “school of origin” unless a determination is made that it is not in the child’s best interest. Such determination will be made in collaboration with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Dispute resolutions shall be handled by all agencies involved in the determination of the foster child’s placement. When possible, a child exiting the foster care program during the school year shall be allowed to complete the school year in the school of origin.

4. Best Interest of The Child

Determining the best interest of the child takes into consideration the following factors, including but not limited to:

- The benefits to the child of maintaining educational stability;
- The appropriateness of the current educational setting;
- The child’s attachment and meaningful relationships with staff and peers at the current educational setting;
- The influence of the school’s climate on the child;
- The safety of the child; and
- The proximity of the placement to the school of origin, and how the length of a commute would impact the child.

5. Immigrant Students

No student shall be denied enrollment based on his or her immigration status, and documentation of immigration status shall not be required as a condition of enrollment. The District may provide an approved high school program to a student who is a refugee or legal alien until the student graduates or until the end of the school year in which the student reaches the age of twenty-one (21), whichever comes first.

6. Nonresident Foreign and Exchange Students

The Oldham County School District regulates the admission and participation of nonresident foreign exchange students through Administrative Regulation 2035AR. The Oldham County School District does not participate in the F-1 visa program-