

# **NORTH EAST HIGH SCHOOL**



**Dr. William Renne**  
**Principal**

## **Guidance Department**

**Mrs. Panek**

**Mr. Puskar**

**Mrs. Coletta**

**Mrs. Martin**

## **Appendix A**

### **HOMELESS STUDENTS/HOUSING ISSUES (MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT)**

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program was established to make sure homeless youth have access to a free and appropriate public education while removing barriers that homeless children face. Its goal is to have the educational process continue as uninterrupted as possible while the children are in homeless situations.

Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act<sup>10</sup> defines “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes —

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”); living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; or abandoned in hospitals;
- 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;

- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are aware of any children in the school district who may possibly fit the above criteria, please contact a school principal or the school district's McKinney-Vento interim liaison, Dr. Michele S. Hartzell at 814-725-8671 Ext 3907 or email [adminoffice@nesd1.org](mailto:adminoffice@nesd1.org).

Services and support are available for these students. Please click on the Parent tab of the district website at [www.nesd1.org](http://www.nesd1.org) for more information.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please reach out to Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Interim Liaison who is the Homeless Liaison at 814-725-8671 ext. 3907, or email [adminoffice@nesd1.org](mailto:adminoffice@nesd1.org).

#### **Liaison Responsibilities**

The district's liaison shall coordinate with:

- Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children, youth, and families.
- Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.

- District staff responsible for the provision of services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Individuals with Disabilities Act.
- State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.

The district's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, soup kitchens, public libraries, and locations frequented by parents/guardians of homeless children. The district liaison shall provide reliable, valid, and comprehensive data to the coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program in accordance with federal and state law regulations.

**Definition of Homelessness:** Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Whose primary nighttime residence 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, transportation stations or similar settings.
- Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
- Living as run-away children.
- Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
- Living as school-aged parents in houses for parents if they have no other living accommodations.

**School of origin** is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including pre-school. When the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

**Unaccompanied youth** is defined as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

#### **Enrollment/Placement**

To the extent feasible and, in accordance with the student's best interest, a homeless student shall continue to be enrolled in his or her school of origin while he or she remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which he or she obtains permanent housing.

Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the district liaison will assist the student with placement and enrollment decisions and give priority to the views of the student in determining where he or she will be enrolled.

If after such consideration, the district determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, the district shall provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination. The explanation shall be in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth and shall include information regarding the right to appeal.

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies. However, the district may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The district liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district, pursuant to Board policy. Homeless families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment.