



Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School
2501 Kensington Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19125
PH-215-288-2001 FAX-215-288-2099
www.sfacs.us

STUDENTS WITHOUT STABLE HOUSING

Eligibility/Definitions

School personnel should make a determination of the student's housing instability based upon the following criteria of the Federal *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*:

1. **Homeless Children and Youth:** means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children and youth who are **doubled-up**, sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason, living in motels, parks or campgrounds; or children or youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a sleeping accommodation by human beings; or children or youth living in cars, abandoned buildings or substandard housing or similar situations; or migratory children because they are living in circumstances like those described above.

Fixed: "Securely placed or fastened" and "One that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change."

Regular: One which is used on a regular (e.g., nightly) basis.

Adequate residence: "One that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments."

2. **Unaccompanied Youth:** Means a youth not in the physical custody of a legal parent or guardian. Youth living on their own in any of the homeless situations described in the McKinney- Vento Homeless Education Act.

School Choice: Schools must allow parents/guardian/ youth to choose a school in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Federal Homeless Act. Homeless children and youth may enroll in:

- a. The school the student attended when permanently housed (school of origin).
- b. The school in which the student was last enrolled (school of origin).
- c. Any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the homeless child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend (new neighborhood school)



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Residency Requirements

Homelessness is a sensitive issue. In some cases, a student's homelessness will be apparent during registration, i.e., residing at a homeless shelter or "doubled-up" with a relative or friend. School personnel should be alert and sensitive to the issue; however, SFACS needs to identify and track its homeless student population according to federal guidelines.

Children and youth who meet the criteria of being homeless, even if unaccompanied by a guardian, must be given full and equal access to an appropriate public education and success in the educational program. The permanency and adequacy of the housing conditions will be considered when determining if a student is homeless.

School Registration of Homeless Students

Homeless children and youth shall be immediately enrolled in school, even if the child or youth lacks the records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency and other documentation. [Sec. 722(g)(3)(B)(iii)]. The enrolling school must immediately contact the last school attended to obtain relevant academic and other records.

Removal of Barriers

The intent of the McKinney-Vento Act is to remove roadblocks to a homeless student's educational access and success. Consideration must be given to issues concerning transportation, school uniforms, etc..

Enrollment Disputes

If the district seeks to place a homeless child in a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, the school district shall inform the parent or the unaccompanied youth of the right to appeal. The district shall provide the parent or unaccompanied youth with written notice including the contact information of the ECYEH Regional Coordinator:

Al B. Quarles Jr., M. Ed., (Philadelphia's Region 1 Homeless Coordinator)

Coordinator of Homeless/Emergency Services

Office: 215-400-6045

Cell: 267-784-9956

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