

**IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS**

In compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Subtitle B, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act, and Section 33-1404, Idaho Code, the following procedures are established to promptly resolve disputes regarding the educational placement of students experiencing homelessness, and shall be implemented in all school district/LEAs in this state, including charter schools authorized by the Idaho Charter Commission. A student is considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if the student lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

School enrollment of a homeless child or youth will be determined based on the best interest of the student and the request of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth. To the extent feasible, the student shall be immediately enrolled or continue enrollment in the school of origin, defined as:

- The school last attended by the student when permanently housed; or
- The last school in which the child was enrolled.

If there is a dispute regarding the educational placement of a homeless student, or if a school or school district/LEA denies a child, youth, or unaccompanied youth homeless status, then a written notice of explanation of such decision shall be promptly provided to the parent/guardian of the child, or to the youth, if unaccompanied by a parent/guardian. Such notice shall be in language the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth can understand, shall include a description of how to dispute the decision, and shall include a summary of the dispute resolution process.

In addition, the school district/LEA shall promptly refer the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth to the homeless liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process within ten (10) business days. The parent/guardian shall be referred to the homeless liaison who shall advise the parent/guardian of the child's rights, assist in and carry out the dispute resolution process. With respect to unaccompanied youth, the liaison shall ensure the same access to the dispute resolution process.

During the pendency of the dispute resolution process, the child, youth, or unaccompanied youth shall be immediately enrolled or continue enrollment in the school of choice (school of origin or local attendance area). Enrollment shall include all educational services for which the student is eligible, such as attending classes and full participation by such student in all school activities.

If agreement cannot be reached between the parties regarding the educational placement or enrollment status of the student, then the school district/LEA shall promptly seek further assistance from the State Coordinator of Homeless Education to

review and determine within ten (10) business days how the student's best interests will be served. All interested parties will be expeditiously informed of the State's determination in writing. The decision of the State Department of Education shall constitute final resolution. ##

Contact:

State Coordinator for Homeless Education
Idaho State Department of Education
650 W. State Street
PO Box 83720
Boise ID 83720

McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 722(g); 42 U.S.C. 11432(g).

November 24, 2010