

PROGRAMS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

FILE: IHBC

TITLE: Title I Comparability Policy

POLICY:

To meet the comparability requirements contained in the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act, it shall be the policy of the Orange County School Board to adhere to the Pupil-Teacher Ratio provision which compares the average number of students per instructional staff in each project school to the average in non-project schools in the district.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: UNKNOWN

TITLE: Homeless Students

POLICY:

Every Student Succeeds Act and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Pursuant to the requirements of the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, all homeless children and youth must have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education administered by the LEA, as provided to other children and youth. Additionally, homeless children and youth shall have access to the education and other services needed to ensure they have the opportunity to meet the same challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held and to fully participate in the district's academic and extracurricular activities. Students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

- (1) Definitions.
 - (a) The terms "enroll" and "enrollment" shall mean attending classes and participating fully in school activities.
 - (b) "Homeless children and youth." For the purpose of identifying homeless children and youth, the Board shall use the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's verbatim definition of homeless children and youth, which provides as follows:
 - i. Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:
 - a. sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;

- b. living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - c. living in emergency or transitional shelters; and/or
 - d. abandoned in hospitals
 - ii. Children and youth 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.
 - iii. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
 - iv. Migratory children who are living in circumstances described above.
- (c) “Liaison” shall mean the staff person designated by the District as the person responsible for carrying out the duties as by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to ensure that homeless children and youth are provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held.
- (d) The “zoned school” is any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
- (e) The “school of origin” is the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including preschool. Additionally, the school of origin includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.
- (f) The term “unaccompanied homeless youth” includes a youth who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence AND who is not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.
- (g) The “eligible school” is defined as the school of origin, the school zoned for the address where the student is temporarily residing, or another school which the students residing in that attendance zone are eligible to attend.
- (h) The “designated feeder 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.

(2) Purpose of the Board's McKinney-Vento Program.

The purpose of the Board's McKinney-Vento Program is to remove barriers regarding the enrollment, retention, and school success of homeless children and youth. Additionally, homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized, segregated, or separated on the basis of their homeless status. In accordance with federal law, the Board will:

- (a) Provide for the immediate enrollment of students identified as experiencing homelessness 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, proof of residency, birth certificate, guardianship records, or other required documentation. The student will be immediately enrolled even if the child or youth is unable to adhere to uniform or dress code requirements or has outstanding fees, fines, or absences.
- (b) Provide appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by homeless children or youth while attending a prior school.
- (c) Provide access for homeless children and youth to academic and extracurricular activities.
- (d) Ensure the rights of homeless students to remain in their school of origin. Keeping the 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 the unaccompanied youth) the youth. In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, the Board shall allow for one of the following, according to the child's or youth's best interest:
 - i. Continue the child's or youth's 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. When homeless student becomes permanently housed, the student may continue enrollment with transportation and all McKinney-Vento Act benefits for the duration of the current academic year.
 - ii. Enroll the child or youth in the local attendance area school that non-homeless students who live in the

attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are able to attend.

- iii. When considering placement in a school other than the child's or youth's school of origin, the District will consider student-centered factors to determine a placement that is in the student's best interest.
 - iv. The eligible school selected shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth missed an application or enrollment deadline during any period of homelessness.
- (e) Provide a written explanation to parents or legal guardians or unaccompanied youth of their right to dispute school placement, if the child or youth is enrolled in a school other than the school of origin. This communication should be in a manner and form that is understandable to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and will include information on the right to appeal the placement determination.
- i. 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 eligible school in which enrollment is sought, ^[GML1]_[GML2] either the school zoned for the address where the student is residing or another school which students residing in that attendance zone are eligible to attend, pending final resolution of the dispute including all available appeals.
 - ii. The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth shall be referred to the district's designated homeless liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible.
- (f) Provide for transportation, if in the best interest of the student, to the school of origin at the request of the parent, legal guardian, or unaccompanied youth. Transportation will continue to the school of origin throughout the duration of the student's homelessness. Parents, legal guardians, and unaccompanied youth will be informed of their right to transportation during the school selection process. Transportation will be provided to the requested school while any dispute is pending. Students that live within the two (2) mile walkout are not eligible for transportation to their school. When the child's or youth's living arrangements are in an area served by another school district (district of residence), the district (district of service) will coordinate with the district of residence to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child or youth with transportation to and from the school of origin.

- (g) Provide comparable services to those offered to non-homeless district students including, but not limited to, transportation services; school nutrition programs; preschool programs administered by the LEA; educational programs for English learners; and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for students with ESE, programs for gifted and talented students, Title I, Part A programs, programs in career and technical education, and before and after school programs. Unaccompanied homeless high school youth will receive counseling to prepare and improve their readiness for postsecondary education.
- (h) Coordinate with district programs, including ESE, and collaborate with other school districts regarding homeless student-related transportation, transfer of school records, and other inter-district activities, as needed. Coordinate with community service providers, housing authorities, and organizations including local social services to provide support to homeless students and families.
- (i) Provide for the maintenance of student records for each homeless child or youth, including immunization, other health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services. These records shall be made available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school. Housing status shall be held confidential and not be deemed to be in directory information under section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act.
- (j) Follow all of the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.

ADOPTED: 04/13/2010
REVISED: 05/9/2019; 08/6/2019