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**Escambia County Schools**

**Services for Homeless Students**

Homeless children and youth are automatically eligible for services under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), whether or not they live in a Title I school attendance area or meet the academic standards required of other children for eligibility. [ESEA section 1115 (c)(2)(E)].

Students identified as homeless under the guidelines of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will be eligible for special services including, but not limited to, the following items through the Escambia County School System’s Office of Federal Programs:

Outreach services

Counseling services

Supplemental instruction

Clothing (i.e.--uniforms)

School supplies

Before/after school, and/or summer programs

Birth certificates

Immunizations

Food

Medical and dental services

Eyeglasses and hearing aids

School fees for classes

Fees for AP and IB testing

Fees for SAT and ACT testing

GED testing for school age students

Students classified as homeless will find no barriers to full participation in all instruction and school activities. Full privacy is maintained to prevent undue hardship on the student(s) and their family.

Escambia County Schools strives to meet the 10 standards of a quality homeless education program:

**\* Standard 1:** All homeless students identified and enrolled at the time of the state assessment take the state assessment required for their grade level.

**\* Standard 2:** All homeless students demonstrate academic progress.

**\* Standard 3:** All children in homeless situations are identified.

**\* Standard 4:** Within one day of an attempt to enroll in school, homeless students are in attendance.

**\* Standard 5:** All homeless students experience stability in school.

**\* Standard 6:** All homeless students receive specialized and comparable services when eligible.

**\* Standard 7:** All preschool-aged homeless children enroll in and attend preschool programs.

**\* Standard 8:** All homeless unaccompanied youth enroll in and attend school.

**\* Standard 9:** All parents (or persons acting as parents) of homeless children and youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in their children’s education.

**\* Standard 10:** LEAs help with the needs of all homeless children and youth through collaborative efforts both within and beyond the LEA.

**Needs Assessment**

Identification: McKinney-Vento questionnaires are distributed to all families when students register for school. If questionnaire has a “Yes” box checked, a conversation is had with the family to determine status. Status is determined based on the definitions and guidelines set forth in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Specific needs for the students: Identification of the needs of homeless students in Escambia County are determined on a case-by-case basis. Each student’s specific situation is reviewed by all stakeholders (Homeless liaison, school counselor, school administration, and the student and their family).

**Title I Set-Aside Determination**

Annually, the Federal Programs Advisory Committee determines the set-aside for Homeless based on the following:

* Identify count of homeless students in all school buildings in the LEA and determine a “reasonable and necessary” amount to provide comparable Title I services to homeless students;
* Review the student’s needs and if they are still classified as “Homeless”;
* Review the funds spent in the previous school year in fulfillment of student needs;
* Determined the costs associated with those needs.

**Review Process**

The process LEA will use to reassess how it meets the needs of homeless students throughout the year

Throughout the school year, the LEA Homeless Liaison (the Federal Programs Supervisor) does checks on all students marked as Homeless to determine if student needs are being met, if additional services are necessary, and if a reevaluation of that student’s status is necessary.

**Support for Homeless Families:**

Alabama Rural Coalition for the Homeless

The Homeless Coalition (Mobile)

Penelope House Family Violence Center

**Partners/Collaborators**Escambia County DHR

Escambia County Family Court / Juvenile Probation Office

Family Services, Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Southwest Alabama Mental Health

Escambia County Sheriff’s Department

If any student in Escambia County is found to be homeless under the McKinney-Vento definition, they shall be eligible for these services. Our support partners will maintain an open communication with the Federal Programs Supervisor and the local schools to ensure appropriate identification and assistance for its students.