



North Panola School District

Homeless Children and Youth and Unaccompanied Youth Plan of Service

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act Homeless Assistance Act, the North Panola School District will work with school and local officials in the identification of homeless and unaccompanied youth.

The North Panola School District adopts the definition of homeless as stated in the McKinney-Vento Act which defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

- Children and youth 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;
 - abandoned in hospitals; or
 - awaiting foster care placement;
- 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;
- Children and youth 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.

All homeless children and youth who reside within the North Panola School District and who seek admission or enrollment will be accommodated as far as is reasonably possible.

The counselor or parent liaison where the child enrolls in school will upon application to enroll inform the district homeless liaison. The district homeless liaison, school/district administration, and the appropriate social service agency (if necessary) will determine (with consultation from parents/caregivers) where the child's best interest can be served.

The North Panola School District will:

- Express prohibition against segregating homeless students
- Follow guidance requirements for transportation to and from school of origin
- Provide immediate school enrollment requirement
- Make placement determinations that are in "best interest" of the child or youth unless it is contrary to the wishes of the parent or guardian.
- Assign a local liaison for homeless children and youth

The homeless liaison to investigate and report disputes that are believed to be in non-compliance with the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendment Act and/or issues that deal with the

educational placement of homeless children and youth. The local superintendent or designee will initiate steps to resolve the dispute in accordance with the dispute grievance procedure required by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendment Act (See Appendix A).

In the event the dispute cannot be solved locally, the parent, guardian and/or superintendent or designee may request a formal review of the dispute by the State Department of Education's Coordinator of the Homeless Program. The review must be requested in writing immediately after the dispute takes place.

The Superintendent's designee will serve as the district staff person to investigate complaints relating to non-compliance.

Persons having a complaint regarding issues dealing with the education of homeless youth should present those complaints in writing to the Superintendent's designee.

These procedures align with NPSD Board Policy JQN.