



March 1, 2022

## **Notice of Updated Homeless Students Policy to Parents/School Community**

Update Effective February 15, 2022

### **HOMELESS STUDENTS**

Reference: 42 USC 11431 et. seq.

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, “homeless” children are those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes: sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason, living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations, living in emergency or transitional shelters, living in a public or private place not designed for or regularly used as accommodations, or living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

Children who meet the Federal definition of "homeless" will be provided a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as all other students of Furlow Charter School and will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. While all students are subject to available space and the lottery process, no homeless student will be denied enrollment based on a lack of proof of residency. No Board policy, Administrative Procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance, or school success of homeless children.

Homeless students will be provided services comparable to other students at FCS, including the following:

- A. educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State and local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- B. any programs in vocational and technical education;
- C. any programs for gifted and talented students; and
- D. any nutrition programs.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines the term “unaccompanied youth” to include a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include youth living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing and children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to as “throwaway” children and youth), and school-age unwed mothers, living in homes for unwed mothers, who have no other housing available.

If a child or youth’s living situation does not clearly fall into the situations described above, the McKinney-Vento Act definition of “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence” should be referenced and consideration should be given to the relative permanence of the living arrangements. Determinations of homelessness should be made on a case-by-case basis. Note that incarcerated children and youth and children and youth in foster care are not considered homeless. The community and Furlow Charter School

will work together to reach homeless families and unaccompanied youth and ensure they are aware of their educational rights through the Homeless Liaison.

The Homeless Liaison for Furlow Charter School is:

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The Homeless Liaison will coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and with community and FCS personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.