

# **East Tallahatchie School District**



## **Migrant and Homeless Plan**

**2022-2023**

## **Migrant Students**

All parents with students attending a school in the East Tallahatchie School District asked to complete a Migrant Survey as a requirement of the federal mandate with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) during registration. This survey serves two purposes. First, the survey helps school and district personnel to identify students who may be considered a migrant student. Second, and most importantly, the survey helps school and district personnel ensure that all students receive the appropriate support services as needed.

### **Definition**

A migratory child is a child who is, or whose parent, spouse, or guardian is, a migratory agricultural worker or migratory fisher, and who, in the preceding 36 months, has moved from one school district to another, to obtain or accompany such parent, spouse, or guardian, in order to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work as a principal means of livelihood.

### **Registration**

Upon review of registration information, the school principal or his/her designee will notify the District EL Coordinator in writing that the school has a migrant student.

The District EL Coordinator will assist the school in getting the student enrolled. The District EL Coordinator will also contact the Mississippi Migrant Education Program Coordinator to notify him/her that the district has a migrant student. District and school personnel from the Mississippi Migrant Education Program office to prescribe an appropriate educational program for migrant students identified in the district.

As a part of registration, children without social security card/number, the school counselor will notify the MSIS clerk. In turn, the MSIS clerk will request a nine-digit number for MSIS identification.

Children without proper immunizations will be enrolled in school and given a grace period of **thirty (30) days** -in which to receive their immunizations and provide the school with documentation.

Parents/guardians will be provided with assistance in securing immunizations and vital records.

## **Assessment, Parent Notification, Placement, and Evaluation**

District and school personnel will follow the same procedures outlined for English Language Learners (as appropriate) to ensure that:

- A migrant student's English language proficiency and academic proficiency is assessed.
- A migrant student's parents receive notification of the assessment results and program placement.
- A migrant student receives the appropriate grade and/or language instruction.
- A migrant student's academic progress is evaluated annually.

## **Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth Policy**

The East Tallahatchie School District, in compliance with the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act), as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110), shall ensure that all homeless children and youth, including preschool-aged children, are provided with equal access to free appropriate education programs. Homeless students will have access to the education and other services that they need in order to have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State of Mississippi academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

Homeless children and youth will not be segregated from the mainstream school environment on the basis of their homelessness. The District will ensure that homeless children and youth are protected from discrimination and harassment on the basis of their homelessness. The District will make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and unaccompanied youth of school age within the district and eliminate barriers in District policies or practices that would prevent them from receiving an education.

### **Definitions**

- A. The McKinney-Vento Act defines "homeless children and youth: as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. The term includes:
1. Children and youth who are:
    - a. sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up);
    - b. living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
    - c. living in emergency or transitional shelters;
    - d. abandoned in hospitals;
    - e. awaiting foster care placement;
    - f. children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
    - g. children and youth who are living in a car, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar setting; and
    - h. migratory children and youth who are living in circumstances described above.
  2. Unaccompanied youth: a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, who meets the definition above.
  3. Enroll and enrollment: attending school and participating fully in school activities.
  4. Immediate: without delay.
  5. Parent: a person having legal or physical custody of a child or youth.
  6. School of Origin: the school the child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.
  7. Liaison: the staff person designated by the East Tallahatchie School District as the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Act.



## **Identification**

1. Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth must be posted in a prominent place in the front office in each school in the district.
2. ETSD must have a designated McKinney-Vento liaison (district liaison).
3. Each school administrator must identify a homeless liaison as the building-level McKinney-Vento contact person (school liaison).
4. The district liaison will coordinate training annually for school liaisons to ensure district compliance with the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act.
5. The school liaisons will document training for school personnel each school year on possible indicators for identifying students in transition within the school and procedures for forwarding information to the school liaison.
6. The school liaison will lead and coordinate their school's compliance with this policy.
7. The school liaison will forward information on all students identified as homeless (or in transition) to the district liaison.
8. The district liaison maintains ongoing collaboration with school liaisons to assist and provide services to students in transition.

## **School Selection**

Each homeless child and unaccompanied youth has the right to remain at his or her school of origin, or to attend any school that houses students who live in the attendance area in which the child or unaccompanied youth is actually living or eligible to attend. In selecting a school, homeless children and unaccompanied youth shall remain at their school of origin to the extent feasible, unless that is against the parent's or youth's wishes. Students may remain at their school of origin the entire time they are homeless, and until the end of any academic year in which they become permanently housed. The same applies if a child or youth loses his or her housing between academic years.

Feasibility shall be a child-centered determination, based on the needs and interests of the particular student and the parent's or youth's wishes. Potential feasibility considerations include:

- a. safety of the student;
- b. continuity of instruction;
- c. likely area of family's or youth's future housing;
- d. time remaining in the academic year;
- e. anticipated length of stay in temporary living situation;
- f. school placement of siblings; and
- g. whether the student has special needs that would render the commute harmful.

## **Enrollment**

The District will immediately enroll homeless children and youth. Unaccompanied youth must also be immediately enrolled in school: they may either enroll themselves or be enrolled by a parent, non-parent caretaker, older sibling or the homeless liaison.

Enrollment may not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally required for enrollment, including:

- a. proof of residency;
- b. transcripts/school records (The enrolling school must contact the student's previous school to obtain school records. Initial placement of students whose records are not immediately available can be made based on the student's age and information gathered from the student, parent and previous schools or teachers.);  
immunizations or immunization/health/medical/physical records (If necessary, the school must refer students to the liaison to assist with obtaining immunizations and/or immunization and other medical records. Health records may often be obtained from previous schools or state registries, and school- or community-based clinics can initiate immunizations when needed.);
- c. proof of guardianship;
- d. birth certificate;
- e. any other document requirements;
- f. unpaid school fees;
- g. lack of uniforms or clothing that conforms to dress codes; and
1. any factor related to the student's living situation.

### **Transportation**

Transportation shall be provided to and from the school of origin for a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth. Transportation shall be provided for the entire time the child or youth has a right to attend that school, as defined above, including during the pendency of disputes. The length of the commute will only be considered in determining the feasibility of placement in the school of origin based on potential harm to the student, as discussed above. Parents and unaccompanied youth must be informed of this right to transportation before they select a school for attendance.

Transportation requests shall be arranged without delay. If the student in transition is living and attending school in the East Tallahatchie School District, the District shall arrange transportation. If the homeless student is living in this district but attending school in another, or attending school in this district but living in another, the District will develop an inter district transportation agreement with the district in which the homeless student resides or the district that houses the homeless student's school of origin. It is this district's policy that inter-district disputes shall not result in a homeless student missing school. If such a dispute arises, this district will arrange transportation and immediately bring the matter to the attention of the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Innovative Support and the Office of Student Transportation.

In addition to receiving transportation to and from the school of origin upon request, children and youth in transition shall also be provided with other transportation services comparable to those offered to housed students.



## **Services**

Homeless children and youth shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, including:

- a. transportation (as described)
- b. Title I (as described below) ;
- c. educational services for which the student meets eligibility criteria, including special education and related services and programs for English language learners;
- d. vocational and technical education programs;
- e. gifted and talented programs;
- f. school nutrition programs; and
- g. before and after school programs.

Evaluations of homeless children and youth suspected of having a disability shall be given priority and coordinated with students' prior and subsequent schools as necessary, to ensure timely completion of a full evaluation. If a student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the enrolling school shall immediately implement it. Any necessary IEP meetings or re-evaluations shall then be conducted expeditiously. If complete records are not available, IEP teams must use good judgment in choosing the best course of action, balancing procedural requirements and the provision of services. In all cases, the goal will be to avoid any disruption in appropriate services.

When applying any district policy regarding tardiness or absences, any tardiness or absence shall be evaluated to determine if it is a result of the child's or youth's living situation. If the school administrator determines that the absence or tardy was a result of homelessness, the administrator may excuse the absence or tardy. School personnel shall refer homeless children and youth to appropriate health care services, including dental and mental health services. The liaison will assist the school in making such referrals, as necessary.

School personnel must inform parents of all educational and related opportunities available to their children and provide parents with meaningful opportunities to participate in their children's education. All parent information required by any provision of this policy must be provided, to the extent practicable, in a form, manner and language understandable to each parent.

## **Disputes**

If a dispute arises over any issue covered in this policy, the homeless child, youth, or unaccompanied youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute. The student shall also have the rights of a homeless student to all appropriate educational services, transportation, free meals and Title I services while the dispute is pending.

The school where the dispute arises shall provide the parent or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal and shall immediately refer the parent or youth to the District Homeless Liaison. The liaison shall ensure that the student is enrolled in the school of his or her choice and receiving other services to which he or she is entitled and shall resolve the dispute as expeditiously as possible. The parent or unaccompanied youth shall be given every opportunity to participate meaningfully in the resolution of the dispute.

The parent, unaccompanied youth or school district may appeal the liaison's decision as provided in the East Tallahatchie School District and the Mississippi State Department of Education Complaint Process.

### **Free meals**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has determined that all homeless children and youth are automatically eligible for free meals.

### **Title I**

Homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth are automatically eligible for Title I services, regardless of what school the student attends. The District shall reserve such funds as are necessary to provide services comparable to those provided to Title I students to homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth attending non-participating schools. Reserved funds will be used to provide educationally related support services to homeless children and youth to remove barriers that prevent regular attendance.

The District's Title I plan will be coordinated with McKinney-Vento Act services, through collaboration between the Title I director and the homeless liaison.

### **Preschool**

The District will ensure that homeless children receive priority enrollment in preschool programs operated by the district, including exempting homeless children from waiting lists.

Homeless children with disabilities will be referred for preschool services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Homeless children under age three will be referred for at-risk services under Part C of IDEA and screened to determine if referrals for additional Part C services are appropriate.

The Homeless Education program is administered through the East Tallahatchie School District Office of Federal Programs.

### **References:**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§11431 - 11436.

Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§6311 - 6315. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§1400 *et seq.*

April 6, 2002 Policy of the Child Nutrition Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. June 5, 1992 Policy of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



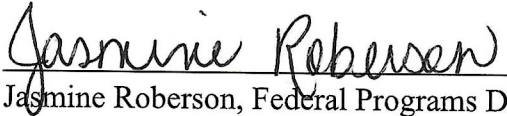
East Tallahatchie School Board Approval of Migrant and Homeless Plan.



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BOARD APPROVED

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