



Horizon Academy West

B.22.4 HOMELESS CHILDREN POLICY

I. 2. Definitions

A. Parent includes natural parent, adoptive parent, legal guardian, or person having physical custody and is responsible for the student's welfare.

B. Homeless Students Children and Youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, whether or not the temporary housing is located in the surrounding area of Horizon Academy West. Homeless students include: 1. Children or youth who are sharing housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing or abandoned in hospitals; 2. Children or youth who have a nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. 3. Children and youth who are living in a car, park public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting. 4. Migratory children and youth who are living in a situation described above.

C. 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.

D. Unaccompanied youth: A youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, who is in transition as defined above. The more general term youth also includes unaccompanied youth.

E. Immediate: without delay

F. Local Liaison: Staff person designated by Horizon Academy West responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Procedures

A. Identification: 1. Enrollment of homeless children will be determined at the time of registration. The school will make a determination based on the criteria listed above. Upon requesting information from prior schools and district the registrar will inquire about the possible homelessness.

B. Enrollment: May not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally required for enrollment, Horizon Academy West removes enrollment barriers, to include missed application or enrollment deadlines including; Proof of guardianship- Birth certificate. Any other document requirements. Unpaid school fees, Immunization or other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation; academic record, including documentation for credit transfer; Lack of uniforms or clothing that conforms to dress codes. Any factor related to the student's living situation Unaccompanied children may either enroll themselves or be enrolled by a parent, non-parent caretaker, older sibling, or local liaison. Preschool-aged homeless children – will have access to and receive services, if eligible, under LEA – administered preschool programs, including Head Start, Part C of the IDEA (Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities) and other preschool programs administered by Horizon Academy West.

C. Services: Horizon Academy West will ensure that: 1. Homeless students including Pre-K enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school. 2. Homeless students will receive educational services for which they are eligible such as special education and language services.



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D. School or Origin: Horizon Academy West will maintain students in their School of origin to promote school stability and greater educational outcomes overall, unless it is not in the student's best interest.

E. Disputes: If a dispute arises over any issue covered in this policy, the parent or unaccompanied student will speak with the Homeless Liaison seek resolution, if a resolution cannot be made then the Liaison and parent or unaccompanied child will take the dispute to the Governing Board, and if a resolution still cannot be made then the parent or the unaccompanied child will take it to the State level. During the dispute process, the child will be admitted immediately to Horizon Academy West and pending final resolution of the dispute. The students will also have access to all services offered at Horizon Academy West while the dispute is pending. 1. Horizon Academy West will provide the parent or unaccompanied student with a written explanation of its decision and the right to appeal. The parent or unaccompanied student will be given every opportunity to participate meaningfully in the resolution of the dispute. 2. An explanation of how the school reached its decision regarding eligibility, school selection, or enrollment, which should include: A description of the action proposed or refused by the school; ☐ An explanation of why the action is proposed or refused; A description of any other options the school considered; ☐ The reasons why any other options were rejected; A description of any other factors relevant to the school's decision and information related to the eligibility or best interest determination including the facts, witnesses, and evidence relied upon and their sources; Appropriate timelines to ensure any relevant deadlines are not missed; and contact information for the local liaison and State Coordinator, and a brief description of their roles.