

# Paradise Schools

www.paradiseschools.org

## **POLICY AND RIGHTS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS**

No discrimination will be made against homeless students. They will be immediately registered and entered into the enrollment lottery even if the child's parent/guardian is unable to provide the required records. If it is determined that PEC is the student's school of origin, the homeless student will be immediately enrolled.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, a child without a fixed, regular and adequate residence is considered homeless, regardless if they are living with one or both parents or separated from their parents. Migrant children on their own are considered homeless if they fit into one of the categories below. Runaways are also considered homeless, even if their family wants them to come home. Under the Act, students are considered homeless and have certain rights or protections if they are:

- Living with a friend, relative, or someone else because they lost their home or can't afford a home
- Staying in a motel or hotel
- Living in an emergent or transitional shelter or domestic violence shelter
- Staying in substandard housing
- Living in a car, park, public place, abandoned building, bus or train station, or any other public or private place that is not suppose to be a regular residence
- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in a campground or an inadequate trailer home
- Abandoned in a hospital
- Living in a runaway or homeless youth shelter

Regardless of whether a student is homeless when they enroll or become so during the school year, they will benefit from the same educational opportunities as any other student attending PEC. In addition, they will not be discouraged from participating in any school related extra curricular activities, clubs or functions. Finally, PEC agrees not to stigmatize or segregate students on the basis of their homeless status.

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, the Board shall designate Claudia Martinez as liaison to fulfill the duties set forth by state and federal law. The liaison shall work to identify homeless children and facilitate access to and success in school. The liaison shall also have the following duties:

- Assist with school enrollment and mediate any disputes concerning enrollment
- Any homeless student may automatically be enrolled in Title 1 program (if needed).
- Arrange for free meals
- Assist in making transportation arrangements
- Assist in obtaining school uniforms at little or no cost
- Assist in requesting the student's academic and medical records
- Provide information and give referrals on services and opportunities such as low-cost or free dental care, medical care, immunizations, counseling, etc.
- Assist with enrollment decisions and ensure that the parents/guardians are informed of all educational and related opportunities available to their children
- Ensure funding is set aside to support homeless student as outlined under the Title I reward
- Ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent/guardian, to and from the school of origin

All efforts will be made by Paradise Education Center to ensure that any homeless student will have a full and equal opportunity to succeed and they will receive any and all educational services for which they qualify.

## **McKinney-Vento Rights for Homeless Students**

Paradise Education Center shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have equal access to the same free and appropriate opportunities as students who are not homeless.

### **All homeless students have the right to:**

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. You must be given access to the same public education provided to other students.
- Continue in the school you attended before you became homeless or the school you last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. The school district's local liaison for homeless education must assist you, if needed, and offer you the right to appeal a decision regarding your choice of school if it goes against your wishes.
- Receive transportation to the school you attended before you became homeless or the school you last attended, if you request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with students who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other students served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

If you feel that you may be eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act, please complete the ***Student Residency Questionnaire Form*** at your child's school office or call Claudia Martinez, Homeless Liaison at 623-975-2646. Homeless eligibility is determined solely by the **Homeless Liaison** on a case-by-case basis.