

**MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**DATE ADOPTED: January 28, 2019**

**FILE SECTOR: INSTRUCTION**

**DATE REVISED:**

**POLICY TITLE: HOMELESS CHILDREN  
AND YOUTHS**

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth (21 years of age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and 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 double-up).
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camp grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
  - Abandoned in hospitals.
  - Awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Medford Area Public School District provides the following assurances to parent(s)/guardian(s) of homeless children:

- The district liaison for homeless children is the Director of Special Education and Student Services.
- There shall be immediate enrollment and school participation, even if educational and medical records and proof of residency are not available.
- All educational opportunities and related opportunities for homeless students (preschool to age 21), including unaccompanied youth, shall be the same as for the general student population.
- Enrollment and transportation rights, including transportation to the school of origin shall be possible, if requested. "School of origin" is defined as the school the child attended when permanently housed or when last enrolled.
- Written explanation of why a homeless child is placed other than in a school of origin or school requested by the parent, with the right to appeal within the local dispute resolution process.
- Meaningful opportunities for parent(s)/guardian(s) to participate in the education of their children shall include special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters and access to student records.
- Homeless children and youth are eligible to receive free school lunch immediately at enrollment and/or identification as being in a homeless situation.

For additional information about homeless services and support, please contact our Director of Special Education and Student Services at 715-748-2316 ext. 324.

**CROSS REFERENCE: JB, JEC, JECBD**

**LEGAL REFERENCE: § Wis. Stats., PI , Wisconsin Administrative Code, McKinney-Vento  
Homeless Education Assistance Act**