

WIDE RUINS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Month of Meeting: November 2022

Type of Item: Action Discussion Travel Other/ Information: _____

Action Item Title: Approval of revision to Kenny McVento Homeless Narrative and P.O.C. for SY 22-23

Submitted by: J. Lewis

Date: November 7, 2022

Department: Administration

Expense Table:

Account Code: _____

Meals: \$	Lodging: \$	Mileage: \$
Airfare: \$	Registration Fee: \$	Other Cost: \$
Total: \$		

Names of individuals that will be traveling:

1.	3.	5.
2.	4.	6.

Administrative Review & Approval:

Department/ Initial:	Circle one:	Comments:
Business/ Human Resource Manager <u>Ms. Aurelia Tapaha</u>	Approved / Not Approved	
Principal <u>Ms. Jeannie Lewis</u>	Approved / Not Approved	

Executive Summary:

Nov 14, 2022
 APPROVED

Board Action

Motion by: Ella Shirky

Seconded by: Louise Nelson

Vote: 3 in favor 0 opposed 1 abstained Approved [] Disapproved [] Tabled

Wide Ruins Community School, Inc.

McKinney-Vento School Homeless Policy



Revised and Approved by WRCS Governing Board on November 14, 2022

Nov 14 2022
APPROVED

MCKINNEY-VENTO SCHOOL HOMELESS POLICY

This McKinney-Vento Homeless Policy is being provided for policy statements from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B as reauthorized by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and to be added to ensure compliance with federal law

Note: Due to the reauthorization a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information and shall be handled in a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act. Consider adding this to the district policy. See Sample Policy, Section IV. Records (B.)(C.)

NOTE: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) McKinney-Vento Program contains a timeline for the dispute resolution process. Check the school policy to ensure BIE McKinney-Vento Program compliance.

I. General Policy Statement:

Wide Ruins Community School shall ensure that homeless children and youths shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

II. Definitions:

“School of Origin” shall mean the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including preschool. School of origin shall also include any designated receiving school for the next grade level for all feeder schools when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

“Homeless children and youths” shall mean any individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:

- (i) Children and youths who are sharing the 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 the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- (ii) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- (iii) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (iv) Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in (i-iii).

“Unaccompanied youth” shall mean a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

III. School Stability:

- A. School Selection: Each school shall presume that keeping a homeless child or youth enrolled in the child’s or youth’s school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

To overcome the presumption that a child or youth should remain in his/her school of origin, the school shall consider student-centered factors including; the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

- B. Enrollment: Once the school is selected in accordance with the child's or youth's best interest, that child or youth shall be immediately enrolled even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment including, but not limited to, previous academic records, immunization or other health records, proof of residency or has missed any application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- C. Transportation: If the child or youth continues to attend his or her school of origin, transportation shall be provided promptly even if there is a dispute pending regarding which school is in the child's or youth's best interest to attend. Transportation will continue to be provided to and from the school of origin for the remainder of any academic year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.

IV. Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

- A. Such that all records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enrolls in a new school or school district;
- B. Any information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information; and
- C. In a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

V. Services:

Local Homeless Liaison: Wide Ruins Community School shall identify an appropriate staff person to be the Local Homeless Liaison (LHL) for all homeless children and youth attending Wide Ruins Community School. The LHL responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Ensure homeless children and youth are identified through outreach and coordination activities including coordination with the BIE McKinney-Vento Point of Contact, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;
- B. Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
- C. Ensure homeless families and homeless children and youths are referred to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing and any other appropriate services;
- D. Ensure that homeless children and youths:
 - i. Are enrolled in school which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities;
 - ii. Have a full and equal opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths;

- iii. Receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports.
 - iv. Unaccompanied youths are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and may obtain assistance from the LHL to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- E. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights, and available transportation services, of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youths, and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.
 - F. Ensure the dispute resolution process identified below is carried out in accordance with the law and school policy.

VI. Dispute Resolution:

- A. The dispute procedure must be available for disputes over eligibility, as well as school selection or enrollment.
- B. In the event of a dispute regarding where a child or youth should enroll, the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals. The district shall immediately provide the child's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth a written explanation of the decision made regarding the school selection including the right to appeal such decision. Said writing shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and also include the LHL contact information. The LHL shall carry out the dispute resolution process within 30 calendar days from the date of said writing pursuant to the BIE McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process.
- C. Appeals: Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge of a homeless child or youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of a school after the dispute resolution process may file an appeal with the BIE Point of Contact within thirty calendar days of receipt of the decision by following the BIE McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution Process.

Appendix:

1. BIE – Identifying Homeless students in doubled-up situations
2. BIE 42 USC McKinney Vento Definition of Homeless



BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youth Program
IDENTIFYING HOMELESS STUDENTS IN DOUBLED-UP SITUATIONS

1. Get the facts. What is the family's or youth situation?
 - Use a standard enrollment form that asks about the family's living situation to gather initial information
2. Analyze the facts. Is the student eligible for McKinney Vento Services?
 - To be eligible, the student must meet the Act's definition of homeless.
 - Defines "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

Does the child's living situation fit one of the specific examples of homelessness listed in the law?

Shelter Motel Doubled Up Car Transitional Housing Park/Public Space

Doubled Up is defined as "Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, or economic hardship."

A. Sharing the housing of another person

Did the student move into the home as an urgent measure to avoid being on the street? Is the situation temporary

McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions

B. Due to loss of housing

An eviction

Had to leave due to domestic violence, infestations, inadequate physical environment (no utilities) Destruction of home (house fire, flood)

Absence of parent/guardian due to abandonment (incarceration)

McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions

C. Economic Hardship: *The way that shared housing came about and intention is very significant*

Limited resources forced families to leave their personal housing to share housing due to inability to pay Such as an accident, illness, loss of employment or benefits forces families to share housing temporarily

McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions

A long-term, cooperative living arrangement among family or friends should not be considered a homeless Situation, even if the parties live together to save money.

Sample Questions to ask

Why are you staying at your current place? – If they mention anything from A, B, C category, They are eligible Are you on the lease? If answer is no - They are eligible

Are you sharing the home equally or are you guests? – If guests, They are eligible Is this a temporary situation? – If Yes, they are Eligible

Could your friends/relatives ask you to leave if they wanted to? – If Yes, they are eligible

Indicators a family may be homeless

Move around a lot

Excessive absences and tardies

Outdated, incorrect contact information

Reluctant to share personal information

If you are uncertain if the family is eligible for McKinney Vento, please contact:

Marie Silverhatband, Point of Contact for Homeless Education

Marie.silverhatband@bie.edu

(202)860-4188



Bureau of Indian Education McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Definition

MCKINNEY-VENTO DEFINITION OF *HOMELESS*

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)

The term “homeless children and youths” –

- A. Means individual who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence; and includes—
- i. children and youths who are sharing the 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 the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
 - ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...;
 - iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - iv. migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

The term “unaccompanied youth” includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Potential Warning Signs of Homelessness

While these are considered warning signs, please recognize that they only offer *general* guidance. There is significant variability within the school-age homeless population. Individual students may differ significantly from the following general characteristics.

Lack of Continuity in Education

- Attendance at many different schools
- Lack of personal records needed to enroll
- Inability to pay fees
- Gaps in skill development
- Mistaken diagnosis of abilities
- Poor organizational skills
- Poor ability to conceptualize

Poor Health/Nutrition

- Lack of immunizations and/or immunization records
- Unmet medical and dental needs
- Increased vulnerability to colds & flu
- Respiratory problems
- Skin rashes
- Chronic hunger (may hoard food)
- Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)

Transportation and Attendance Problems

- Erratic attendance and tardiness
- Numerous absences
- Lack of participation in after-school activities
- Lack of participation in field trips
- Absences on days when students bring special treats from home
- Inability to contact parents

Poor Hygiene

- Lack of shower facilities/washers, etc.
- Wearing same clothes for several days
- Inconsistent grooming – well-groomed one day and poorly groomed the next

Lack of Privacy/Personal Space After School

- Consistent lack of preparation for school
- Incomplete or missing homework (no place to work or keep supplies)
- Unable to complete special projects (no access to supplies)
- Lack of basic school supplies
- Loss of books and other supplies on a regular basis
- Concern for safety of belongings
- Refusing invitations from classmates

Social and Behavioral Concerns

- A marked change in behavior
- Poor/short attention span
- Poor self esteem
- Extreme shyness
- Unwillingness to risk forming relationships with peers and teachers
- Difficulty socializing at recess
- Difficulty trusting people
- Aggression
- "Old" beyond years
- Protective of parents
- Clinging behavior
- Developmental delays
- Fear of abandonment
- School phobia (student wants to be with parent)
- Need for immediate gratification
- Anxiety late in the school day

Reaction/Statements by Parent, Guardian, or Child

- Exhibiting anger or embarrassment when asked about current address
- Mention of staying with grandparents, other relatives, friends, or in a motel or comments, such as:

"I don't remember the name of our previous school."

"We've been moving around a lot."

"Our address is new; I can't remember it." (may hide lack of permanent address)

"We're staying with relatives until we get settled."

"We're going through a bad time right now."

"We've been unpacking, traveling, etc.," to explain poor appearance and/or hygiene.

The homeless liaison for my district is Mrs. Rethema Kenny, School Liaison
contact information is 928-652-3251 ext. 132

Lisa Phillips, NC State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
NC Department of Public Instruction
Office of the Deputy State Superintendent of Innovation
Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division
The SERVE Center at UNCG
336-315-7491

lphillip@serve.org or lphilli@uncg.edu

Website: www.serve.org/hepnc or <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/homeless/>



WIDE RUINS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 309
Chambers, Arizona 86502

Phone: (928) 652-3251
Fax: (928) 652-3286

GOVERNING BOARD

PresidentGlenna Thompson
Vice-President.....Kathleen Lee
Secretary.....Louise Nelson
Member.....Ella Shirley
Principal..... Jeannie M. Lewis

November 14, 2022

TO: Wide Ruins Community School Board

FROM:


Ms. Jeannie M. Lewis, Principal

CC : Aurelia Tapaha, Business Manager, Human Resource/Payroll Technician

RE: Recommendation to appoint McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison and Plan.

This letter is to recommend to appoint the McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison point of contact to the school liaison, Mrs. Rethema Kenny. She is well aware of the protocols for identifying and working with the parents/guardians and students. She will be tasked with the roles and responsibilities of this program and budgetary needs.

Your approval to our request for this most important work is very much appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your approval. Ahehee'

cc: RKenny, School Liaison
Personnel File