



## Homeless Student Policy

KIPP OKC will comply with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as required under federal law. KIPP OKC shall ensure that each homeless and runaway youth will have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, as provided to other children and youth.

### Homeless Definition:

- Student lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and 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; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- 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 (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- Migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965);
- Students who have run away and as a result are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and are living in a shelter, on the street, with friend or relatives, or are moving around from one place to another.

**The Rights of Homeless Students:** Students who meet the definition of "Homeless" and are identified or identify themselves as such have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if they lack documents normally required for enrollment (i.e. birth certificates, transcripts, vaccinations, etc.);
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school works with the family/student to gather the needed documents;
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending the school they last attended, if that is their preference and is possible. If the district believes that the school chosen is not in the student's best interest, a written explanation will be provided and the student has the right to appeal this decision;
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested; and,
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student's needs.

**Identification:** Students are primarily identified at enrollment or through the school enrollment office or Homeless Liaison. Families or students who believe that they are homeless, should identify themselves as such to the school Homeless Liaison.



**Dispute Process:** If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the established district dispute process shall be followed. Children have the right of enrollment until such time as there a final resolution to the dispute.

Parents/Guardians/Students who feel that their request to enroll has been incorrectly denied or wish to contest their child's placement should be encouraged to contact the Homeless Director for consultation. If the dispute is not resolved at this stage, they will be asked to submit their case in writing to the Superintendent.

Should the final result of the district dispute process be unsatisfactory to the parent/guardian/student, they may appeal the district's final decision by contacting the State Homeless Liaison at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

**Homeless Liaison:** KIPP OKC is required to identify a person to act as a Homeless Liaison. This person's duties involve training school staff in identification procedures, serving as an advocate for homeless students, assuring that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated, ensuring transportation to/from school, removing barriers to academic and extra-curricular activities, arranging for services and arbitrating disputes that may arise. The Homeless Liaison can be contacted at (405) 849-9700.