Revere Public Schools
McKinney-Vento Act
Homeless Education Enrollment Rights and Services

The recent reauthorization of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Acts of 1965, “No Child Left Behind,” includes reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Education Act for Homeless Children and Youth. The McKinney-Vento Act now requires every school district to designate a staff person as a liaison for students in homeless situations. This person, who may also be a coordinator for other school programs, will serve as the Massachusetts Department of Education point of contact for education-related issues regarding homeless students in the school district.

To assure that school districts implement the goal of the McKinney-Vento Act, that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth, please be advised, with your assistance and with the appropriate agencies we will ensure the following:

1. Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination with other agencies;
2. Homeless children and youth enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school and receive educational services for which they are eligible;
3. Parents or guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities, such as access to school nutrition programs, available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
4. Enrollment disputes are mediated and resolved; and
5. Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, including to the school origin, and are assisted in accessing needed transportation services.

To the extent practical and as required by law, the Revere Public Schools will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable preschool programs, Title I similar state programs, special education, bilingual education, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs and school nutrition programs.

Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to a loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Being abandoned in hospitals;
5. Awaiting foster care placement;
6. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings;
8. Migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples.

9. Doug Goodwin (781-485-2748) has been designated as the appropriate staff person to the district’s liaison for homeless students and their families.

To the extent feasible, homeless students will continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Instead or remaining in the school of origin, parents or guardians of homeless students may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area in which the student is actually living, or other schools. Attendance rights by living in attendance areas, other student assignment policies, or intra and inter-district choice options are available to homeless families on the same terms as families resident in the district.

If there is an enrollment dispute, the student shall be immediately enrolled in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the district’s decision and their appeal rights in writing. The district’s liaison will carry out dispute resolution as provided by state rule. Unaccompanied youth will also be enrolled pending resolution of this dispute.

Once the enrollment decision is made, the school shall immediately enroll the student, pursuant to district policies. If the student does not have immediate access to immunization records, the student shall be admitted under a personal exception. Students and families should be encouraged to obtain current immunization records or immunizations as soon as possible, and the district liaison is directed to assist. Records from the student’s previous school shall be requested from the previous school pursuant to district policies. Emergency contact information is required at the time of enrollment consistent with district policies, including compliance with the state’s address confidentiality program when necessary.

Homeless students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the school of origin is in a different district, or a homeless student is living in another district but will attend his or her school or origin in this district, the districts will coordinate the transportation services necessary for the student, or will divide the costs equally.

Doug Goodwin as liaison for the homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youths and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. This coordination includes providing public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters and soup kitchens. Doug Goodwin will also review and recommend amendments to district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.