

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 mandates that states and local school districts follow specific requirements in the admission and services provided to students who are homeless. NUSD abides by the state and federal mandates. The governing board has approved policy J-1032 covering the requirements for serving homeless students as well as a dispute resolution process if the parent does not agree with the District's decisions on the admittance.

A student is considered to be homeless if he or she is living in a shelter, a motel or campground due to a lack of an alternative adequate accommodation, in a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station.

A student also qualified for homeless status if the family is doubled up with other people **due to loss of housing or an economic hardship**.

A student in foster care is no longer considered homeless under a change in the McKinney-Vento guidance in effect in 2016. A family that is sharing housing for reasons other than a loss of adequate housing due to an economic hardship is not considered homeless.

The following policy outlines the rules for the admission of homeless students and an explanation of the dispute resolution process.

The homeless liaison for NUSD is the Student Services Director Judith Mendoza Jimenez. She can be reached at jmendoza@nUSD.k12.az.us or 520-397-7913. The state coordinator is Alexis Clemont. She can be reached at 602-542-4963.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter



In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation



In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station



Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

*Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the
federal McKinney-Vento Act.*

Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.
 - * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.



Local Liaison
Judith Mendoza Jimenez
520-397-7913

State Coordinator
Alexis Clemont
602-542-4963

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs,
contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145 * homeless@serve.org * <http://nche.ed.gov>

EXHIBIT

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NOTICE

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001, 722 (e)(3)(C), the parent or guardian (student if unaccompanied) is to receive and acknowledge notice of the rights set forth below.

The parent or guardian of a homeless student (student if unaccompanied) has the right to:

- Continue the student's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness:
 - in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or
 - for the remainder of the academic year, if the student becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
- Enroll the student in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.
- Appeal if the homeless student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian;
- Enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school without being segregated from the nonhomeless student population;
- Receive educational services for which such families and students are eligible, including:
 - Transportation services, meals programs;
 - Head Start programs and preschool programs administered by the School; and
 - referrals to health care and immunization services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services.
- Identification or service without being stigmatized as homeless by school personnel;

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A parent or guardian (student if unaccompanied) may contact the State Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths at;

The Arizona Department of Education
1535 W Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (602) 542-4962

A parent or guardian (student if unaccompanied) may contact the District Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths at;

Student Services Director
Nogales Unified School District No. 1
310 West Plum Street
Nogales, Arizona 85621
(520) 287-0800
www.k12.az.us

The District Liaison for Homeless shall ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied youth is:

- assisted in accessing transportation to the selected school;
- provided assistance in exercise of the right to attend the school of choice and other necessary services; and
- provided the above information in a manner and form understandable to the recipient and if necessary and to the extent feasible, in the native language of the recipient.

The signature below indicates that the signatory has received and understands this information on rights.

Signature of Parent, Legal Guardian
(or unaccompanied student)

Date

One (1) copy to signatory and one (1) to the liaison officer file.

Nogales Unified School District
Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Dispute Resolution Process

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in for a student eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act –

The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. *NUSD* will provide its share of the transportation to the school selected for the duration of the dispute resolution process.

The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to *NUSD's* Local Educational Liaison, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Local Educational Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending the resolution of the dispute.

The Local Educational Liaison shall work through the expedited dispute resolution process. For *NUSD schools* that process involves:

- A) *Who – Who will the decision-makers be?* The *NUSD* Superintendent will be the final decision maker.

- B) *What – What will they do in order to come to a decision?* Review the application, the Homeless policy and procedures manual, and verify the information provided by the parents

- C) *When – What is the timeline?* A decision will be made within seven days of the dispute filing. The student will be enrolled in school during this process.

NUSD shall provide the parent, guardian, or homeless youth with:

- 1) a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment; and

- 2) written forms so that, if dissatisfied with the school's decision, the parent, guardian or youth may appeal the decision to the state level.

(<http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/homeless/disputeresolution.asp>)