

Lincoln Consolidated School District

Clay Hendrix, Superintendent

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Public Notice: Education Rights of Homeless Students Under the McKinney-Vento Act

Lincoln Consolidated School District is actively seeking children and youth who are homeless to ensure they are enrolled in school and provided all services due to them. If you are homeless or know of someone who is, please contact our Homeless Liaison:

Local Liaison: James Gregory Telephone: 479-824-7306 located at the above address

Who is considered “homeless?”

Children and youths who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including those who share housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship or similar reason. It includes children living in homeless shelters, motels, campgrounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or other similar settings, or youth waiting foster care placement or migratory youth fitting into one of these categories.

Educational rights of homeless children:

Equitable and comparable access to a free and public education, including:

- Immediate enrollment in school, including public preschool, (Head Start, Even Start...) and, if requested, at their “school of origin”;
- Prompt provision of free meal program services;
- Prompt meeting with the local homeless liaison;
- Dispute resolution;
- Expedited evaluations necessary to program placement;
- Appropriate educational services based on an assessment of individual needs, participation in educational programs provided to non-homeless counterparts, including local and statewide assessments, special ed services, voc ed, other special programs (GATE, counseling, ELL, before and after school programs, mentoring, summer school...);
- Referrals to medical, dental, mental, and other health services;
- Automatic enrollment in Title I program support services;
- Parent or guardian involvement, including education about resources and rights available to homeless children;
- Provision of school supplies to eligible students in temporary housing;
- Transportation services to and from school.

School of Origin:

The school the student attended while permanently housed or the school in which he/she was last enrolled is the “school of origin.” The district will, to the extent feasible, keep children and youth at their school of origin unless doing so is contrary to the choice of the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth. The district must consider the best interests of the child.

Right to Appeal

If the placement decision made by the district is to place the child in a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, the decision may be appealed. The local liaison will assist the student's appeal process. The student will be enrolled immediately (even without immunization records, birth certificate, proof of residence or other "usually" required documentation) in the parent-requested school while the appeal is pending.

Role of the Liaison

Liaisons help and support students in homeless situations by:

- Making sure students are enrolled immediately;
- Help families and youth get immunizations and other health care and social services;
- Assist families in obtaining, immunization and other medical and educational records and usual enrollment documents;
- Tell parents and youth about their rights, the school's programs and activities;
- Assist students in receiving expedited assessments for rapid placement in programs and/or receiving special educational services (Title I, special ed ...);
- Inform parents and students about transportation services (and related rights);
- Assist in dispute resolutions between parent and school; and
- Post public notices in appropriate places (shelters, laundromats, motels, food banks...) regarding the education rights of homeless students.