

704 STUDENTS IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS

I. PURPOSE

Section 722(g) of the federal McKinney-Vento Act has specific requirements that pertain to school districts with Title I schools. In order to comply with this act, the Minnesota Department of Education requires a written homeless student enrollment dispute resolution policy.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Definitions.

1. In the State of Minnesota, under the McKinney-Vento Act, children and youth who are otherwise legally entitled to or eligible for a free public education, including preschool, and who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, are identified as **children and youth in transition**. This includes **unaccompanied youth**, a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, who is in transition.
2. **Length of transition.** A child or youth shall be considered to be in transition for as long as he or she does not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
3. **District liaison.** The district liaison for children and youth in transition is responsible for identifying children and youth in transition in the district, both in and out of school. The liaison is the person responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to the liaison by the McKinney-Vento Act.

B. Enrollment. ISD 876 will support children and youth in transition in remaining at their schools of origin to the extent feasible, unless that is against the parent or youth's wishes. ISD 876 will ensure that children and youth in transition are free from discrimination, segregation, and harassment. To the extent feasible, ISD 876 will enroll any child or youth in transition when an ISD 876 school is selected for enrollment. Enrollment will not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally required for enrollment, including:

- proof of residency
- transcripts or school records
- immunizations or immunization/health/medical/physical records. If necessary, the school must refer students to the liaison to assist with obtaining immunizations and/or immunization and other medical records.
- proof of guardianship
- birth certificate
- any other document requirements

- unpaid school fees
 - lack of clothing that conforms to dress codes
 - any other factor related to the student's living situation
- C. Comparable Services. ISD 876 will provide services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected.
- D. Assessment, Reporting & Accountability. Children and youth in transition shall be assessed, reported on, and included in accountability systems, as required by federal law and U. S. Department of Education regulations and guidance.
- E. Transportation. At a parent's request, transportation shall be provided to and from the school of origin for a child or youth in transition. Transportation shall be provided for the entire time the child or youth has a right to attend that school, including during pending disputes. The liaison shall request transportation to and from the school of origin for unaccompanied youth. The length of the commute will only be considered in determining the feasibility of placement in the school of origin based on potential harm to the student. Parents and unaccompanied youth must be informed of this right to transportation before they select a school for attendance.
- F. Transportation Disputes. Schools and liaisons shall use the district transportation form to process transportation requests. Requests shall be processed and transportation arranged without delay. If the student in transition is living and attending school in another or attending school in this district but living in another, ISD 876 will follow the inter-district transportation agreement to determine who must arrange transportation. Inter-district transportation disputes will not result in a student in transition missing school. If such a dispute arises, ISD 876 will arrange transportation and immediately bring the matter to the attention of the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Children and youth in transition shall also be provided with other transportation services comparable to those offered to housed students.