

Perry Central Community School Corporation

McKinney-Vento District Plan

2018-2019

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW/GENERAL INFORMATION

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) (McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently re-authorized on December 10th, 2016 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State Education Agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic and standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. SEAs and local education agencies (LEAs) are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth.

Definition of Homeless (McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C 11435 (2)):

Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence:

- “Double up” – Sharing the housing of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.
- Migratory children living in above circumstances.
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Unaccompanied Youth – Children or youth who meet the definition of homeless and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Residency and Educational Rights:

Students who are in temporary, inadequate and homeless living situations have the following rights in Perry Central Community School Corporation.

- Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended or the school in whose attendance area they are currently staying even if they do not have all of the documents normally required at a time of enrollment;
- Access to free meals and textbooks, Title I and other educational programs and other comparable services including transportation;
- Attendance in the same classes and activities that students in other living situations also participate in without fear of being separated or treated differently due to their housing situations.

Procedures for the Dissemination of Educational Rights:

All schools within the Perry Central Community School Corporation shall ensure that public notice of the educational rights of students and families in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act. Posters in both English and Spanish will be posted in all school buildings, local shelters, local hotels, the local post office building, local library and local food banks.

SECTION 2: IDENTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Title 1 Services and Funding:

At Perry Central Community School Corporation all children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services are automatically eligible for Title 1, Part A services, whether or not they attend a Title I, Part A Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sec. 1115(b)(2); 20 U.S.C. 6315(b)(2)). This automatic eligibility acknowledges that the experience of homelessness puts children and youth at significant risk of academic failure, regardless of their previous academic standing. Additionally, all Perry Central Community School Corporation children and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento services who are doing well academically are entitled to receive additional non-instructional education related support services needed to succeed in school.

School Selection:

Perry Central Community School Corporation will keep students in homeless situations in their school of origin defined as the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes or unless it is determined to be in the student's best educational interest. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to remain in their school of origin for the entire duration in which they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services may also choose to enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

Procedures to Identify and Verify Eligibility of McKinney-Vento Students:

Every current, returning, and new student in the Perry Central Community School Corporation must complete online enrollment via the district's Student Management System, Skyward. One of the forms to be completed online is the McKinney-Vento Residency Questionnaire and Form (Appendix A). This questionnaire and form will be utilized to determine if the student is facing a homeless situation. Follow up contact to verify the information provided will be conducted within 5 days of the completion of enrollment by either the district or a building level McKinney-Vento liaison.

SECTION 3: SERVICES AND STANDARDS

Transportation:

Each Perry Central Community School Corporation child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including transportation services.

Perry Central Community School Corporation will provide students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services with transportation to and from their school or origin, at a parent or guardian's request. For unaccompanied youth, Perry Central Community School Corporation will provide transportation to and from the school of origin at the request of the District McKinney-Vento Liaison. If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, Perry Central Community School Corporation will provide and/or arrange transportation to and from school. If the student is living outside of Perry Central Community School Corporation, Perry Central will assume responsibility and cost of providing transportation to and from school.

Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive these transportation services for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

**School of origin is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.*

Food Services:

Each Perry Central Community School Corporation child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including school nutrition programs.

Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch as offered by each school for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

Textbooks and Technology:

Each Perry Central Community School Corporation child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including access to instructional materials, assessments, and technology. Students and youth who qualify for McKinney-Vento Services are eligible to receive free textbooks and technology fees as offered by each school for the entire duration in which they are homeless.

Academic Services & Standards:

Each Perry Central Community School Corporation child or youth facing a McKinney-Vento situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including educational services for which the child or youth meet the eligibility criteria (Title I services, preschool, educational programs for children with disabilities or for students with limited English proficiency), programs in vocational and technical education, and programs for gifted and talented students as available.

SECTION 4: ENROLLMENT

Enrollment Procedures:

Any child or youth who claims to be homeless will be immediately enrolled in Perry Central Community School Corporation even if they do not have required documents such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or guardianship papers or other documents.

Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.

The McKinney-Vento District Liaison will assist unaccompanied youth in choosing and enrolling in a school after considering the youth's wishes, informing the youth of his/her rights to transportation and assisting the youth in accessing transportation, and informing the youth of his/her right to appeal school or school district decisions. The McKinney-Vento District Liaison must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that may arise over school enrollment or placement.

Unaccompanied youth have the right to

- Remain in their school of origin
- Transportation to and from the school of origin
- Immediately enroll in a new school serving they are in which they are currently living even if they don't have typically required documents (e.g., proof of guardianship).
- Equal access to programs and services such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, and English Language Learner services.

Perry Central Community School Corporation shall remove any/all barriers to enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations. Students in homeless situations shall be free from segregation, isolation, and stigmatization.

The term "enroll" is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

***"School of origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.*

Appeal and Dispute Process

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be

referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:

- The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
- The parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal;
- The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the McKinney-Vento District Level Team, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
- In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the McKinney-Vento District Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

*The McKinney-Vento District Level Team consists of the District Level Liaison, Building Level Principals, and the High School Guidance Counselor.

SECTION 5: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

McKinney-Vento Professional Development Opportunities:

Professional development for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will be provided to all staff members at Perry Central Community School Corporation via the following:

- Annual start-of-school staff meeting
- Staff newsletters
- School board presentations
- Faculty meetings (held monthly)

District Website:

The Perry Central Community School Corporation website will include a page that will be used to communicate McKinney-Vento information with students, parents, staff, and community members. Information on the website will include the following:

- Contact information for the District Liaison
- Notice of rights for McKinney-Vento families
- Dispute Resolution Documents
- Link to McKinney-Vento resources

SECTION 6: EDUCATIONAL STAFFING AND SUPPORT

McKinney-Vento District Liaison's Roles and Responsibilities

The Assistant Superintendent of Perry Central Community School Corporation (Tara Bishop) serves as the District McKinney-Vento Liaison and will

- Ensure that procedures are established and followed across the school district and provide each child or youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services with a free and appropriate education.
- Work collaboratively with transportation and food services personnel to coordinate appropriate services for any child or youth who qualifies for services.
- Disseminate critical information concerning the rights of students in homeless situations to all schools.

- Post information regarding the availability of school programs and services for students facing homeless situations in local shelters, hotels, post office buildings, and food banks.
- Maintain a McKinney-Vento District Liaison Log to document the McKinney-Vento process for each child and youth who qualifies for services.
- Plan and facilitate all professional development regarding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to all staff responsible for identifying and working with students facing homeless situations.
- Work with building staff and administration to facilitate success of the McKinney-Vento program and each student facing a homeless situation.
- Meet with community agencies and volunteers to share resources and information and to evaluate impact of services.
- Monitor all district data collection and reporting requirements on each child and youth who qualifies for McKinney-Vento services.
- Attend state level professional development opportunities.

McKinney-Vento District Liaison:

Tara Bishop

tbishop@pccs.k12.in.us

812-843-5576