

**HOMELESS/HIGHLY MOBILE STUDENTS
IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURE
Westbrook Walnut Grove Public Schools**

Purpose: Identifying homeless and highly mobile children and youths is required by Title 1/NCLB and McKinney-Vento legislation to ensure that these students have opportunities to meet the same challenging district and state standards expected of all students. This includes immediate access to free meals.

A student meets the McKinney Vento definition of being homeless or highly mobile if his or her family lives in any of the following conditions because of lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence:

- In a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter, or temporary housing program)
- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing
- In an abandoned building, other inadequate accommodation, or in a car
- On the street
- In temporary foster care
- With friends or family because you are an unaccompanied youth
- Lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence

Students who live in conditions that meet this definition can be identified at Student Placement, by shelter staff, or by school staff, at any time of the school year. To assist staff to identify homeless students new to the district or to the school, an additional question is included on the Form 13 and/or the on-line registration form with a Self Identification form for families or youth to complete. A student who has a history of residential address changes may also be identified as homeless. Questions about homeless status should be referred to the District Liaison at 859-2141.

When a student or his/her family reports living in one of these conditions to any school district staff, the student's confidential file is coded by shelter program staff in one of the following categories:

- H for homeless by being highly mobile, doubled up, on the street, in a motel or vehicle
- S for staying in shelter housing

Coding on discovery is done by school program staff only. Notify one of the contacts below by emailing or faxing the School Site Identification form attached.

Email: *polson03@mntm.org*
Fax: 507.859.2329
Phone: 507.859.2141

This code is limited to one year. This code will remain on the student's file for the duration of the school year, and at the end of the school year the code will be deleted. All student files will have a blank housing code beginning July 1.

McKinney-Vento Legislation and District Policy Definition:

The term "**homeless children and youths**" means **individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence** as those terms are defined in law. They include:

1. Children and youths who are **sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds** due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are **living in emergency or transitional shelters**; are **abandoned in hospitals**; or are **awaiting foster care placement**;
2. Children and youths who have a **primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings**;
3. Children and youths who are **living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings**; and,
4. **Migratory children**, as this term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this definition because the children are **living in circumstances described** in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Homeless/highly mobile students have the rights to: immediate enrollment in school, continue at the same school if transportation is feasible; attend special programs and receive services as all other students; and more ... see district policy #5291 and regulations.

August, 2008

SCHOOL SITE IDENTIFICATION FORM
Homeless and Highly Mobile Students

Westbrook Walnut Grove Public Schools

Request Date: _____

School Name: _____

I am requesting that the student(s) listed below be identified as homeless on his/her Discovery student file:

Student Name	ID # or Birthdate
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please check your best understanding of the student's living situation:

- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because housing cannot be found
- In an abandoned building, other inadequate accommodation, or in a car
- On the street
- In temporary foster care
- With friends or family because the student is an unaccompanied youth
- Lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence

Staff making request: _____

Phone: _____

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