

Regional School District No. 17 6000 Series

6141.312(a)

Instruction

Migrant /Homeless Students

The Superintendent of Schools will develop and implement a program to address the needs of migrant children in Regional School District No. 17.

This program will include a means to:

1. Identify migrant students and assess their educational and related health and social needs.
2. Provide a full range of services to migrant students including applicable Title I programs, special education, gifted education, vocational education, language programs, counseling programs and elective classes.
3. Provide migrant children with the opportunity to meet the same statewide assessment standards that all children are expected to meet.
4. Provide advocacy and outreach programs to migrant children and their families and professional development for District staff.
5. Provide parents/guardians an opportunity for meaningful participation in the program.

Migrant Education Program for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Involvement

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of migrant students will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of the migrant program.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of migrant students will receive instruction regarding their role in improving the academic achievement of their children.

Homeless Children

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act defines "homelessness" broadly to mean "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence," including:

- Children who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Children who are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Children who are living in emergency or transitional shelters, or who are abandoned in hospitals, or are awaiting foster care placements;
- Children 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;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

This law obligates school districts to assure that students enrolled in their schools who become homeless during a school year continue to receive educational services for that year. It further provides that students who become homeless between school years must continue to receive educational services for

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the following school year. In both cases, the school district responsible for assuring continued educational services is the district in which the student was last enrolled before becoming homeless (the district of origin). This obligation continues throughout the period of homelessness.

Moreover, such children may now continue in enrollment in the school of origin at least for the rest of the school year, even if they establish a new residence. The school district of origin and the new school district must confer on how best to share costs, but if they cannot, the law specifies that they must split the costs equally. Obviously, the obligation to assure that such children get to school each day can be a logistical nightmare. To meet these obligations, school districts are now required to designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other federal programs, such as local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths.

Under McKinney-Vento, the district of origin (where the child was enrolled when s/he last had a permanent residence) is obligated to maintain the child in the school of origin "to the extent feasible," unless the parent or guardian objects. The district may continue to provide educational services in the school of origin, i.e. the school that the student attended when last permanently housed or the school of last enrollment. The responsible district may provide for the child to attend school in the school that is attended by other students living in the same attendance area where the homeless child lives, but if the parent or guardian insists, transportation must be provided to the school of origin if that school is within the school district.

Legal Reference: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, §1301 et seq., 20 U.S.C. §6391 et seq., 34 C.F.R. §200.40 - 200.45.

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