

Homeless Student Policy

Adopted June 2013

Reviewed July 11, 2018

Revised February 19, 2020

Reviewed June 19, 2024

McKinney Vento Definition of Homeless:

Per the references within this policy, the federal definition of homeless will be used.

Students meet the definition of homeless when they lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence.

This includes, but is not limited to, students who:

- Are sharing the housing of another person (doubled up) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Live in motels, hotels, RV parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Live in emergency or transitional shelters
- Are abandoned in hospitals
- 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
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Are migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above
- Are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

Services to Homeless Children and Youth

Any enrolled student, either homeless or otherwise, will receive access to the same high quality educational opportunities, including programs for students with disabilities, programs for English Language Learners, programs in career and technical education, and programs for gifted and talented students.

The District complies with requests made by a parent(s) regarding school placement regardless of whether the student lives with the homeless parent(s) or is temporarily residing elsewhere.

The Board ensures that:

- it reviews and revises Board policies and regulations to eliminate barriers to the identification, enrollment, retention, and success in school of homeless students including barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.
- the Executive Director appoints a local liaison, able to carry out their duties, who ensures that homeless students are identified and enroll and succeed in school and ensures the local liaison is trained in compliance with law.
- it provides training opportunities for staff on identifying and serving homeless students.
- homeless children or youth are immediately enrolled even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment such as previous academic records, records of

immunization, and other required health records, proof of residency or other documentation, or if the student has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

- homeless children or youth are provided with education services that are at least comparable to the services provided to non-homeless students.
- homeless students and unaccompanied youth meeting the relevant eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities.

TRECA Digital Academy will assign a local liaison that will serve as the direct contact between homeless students and families and the school. The local liaison is responsible for carrying out all duties required by law, ensuring compliance, and coordinating services for homeless students including local referrals to social service agencies, including those funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

A student who ceases to be homeless may continue to receive services until the end of the period of time for which the service was originally intended to be provided, which may be the end of the school year or the end of a program cycle.

Information about a homeless child or youth's living situation is part of the student education record and is not considered directory information.

The District complies with the Ohio Department of Education's Plan and State and Federal laws for the education of homeless students.

Dispute Resolution

In the event that homeless families or youth challenge placement and enrollment decisions at TRECA Digital Academy, the district will follow the Ohio Department of Education's Dispute Resolution Process. While TRECA Digital Academy is a one-building district, TRECA administration will follow the Dispute Resolution procedures should a dispute arise.